THE

LIFE

OF

Admiral VERNON.

By an impartial Hand.

LONDON:

Printed for J. FULLER, in *Avemary-Lane.* MDCCLVIII.

LIFE

OF

Admiral VERNON.

BL

THE LIFE OF Admiral VERNON.

BOOK I.

His birth, family, and education; with a remarkable converſation between his father and him concerning the ſea ſervice; he is ſhipwrecked, and narrowly eſcapes.

EDWARD VERNON Eſq; was born at Weſtminſter, the 12th day of November 1684. His father, Mr. ſecretary Vernon, was deſcended of a ſecond branch of the family of Vernon in Staffordſhire.

The name of Vernon is originally French, and may with great propriety be ſaid to have come over with William the

Conqueror, who diſtributed among his ſoldiers the lands and eſtates not only of Harold's friends and aſſociates, but even of ſuch of the Engliſh families, the nobility not excepted, as joined his own ſtandard, and fought under him at the general engagement near Battlebridge in Suſſex. Among the number of thoſe who received his bounty in this way, was the progenitor of Mr. Vernon, who even breathed more of a ſpirit of liberty than could be expected in thoſe of days ſuperſtition and ignorance.

Though the family of Vernon was not ſo conſpicuous as ſome others, yet they frequently had ſufficient intereſt to procure ſeats in the houſe of Commons, and to attain places and preferments in the army, church and ſtate. They oppoſed tyranny in every reign, and were in the number of the heroes who joined the ſtandard of the earl of Richmond, afterward Henry VII. who on the field of Boſworth, totally routed the army of Richard III. who, after performing miracles of brave-

ry,

ry, died like Catiline, with his ſword in his hand.

At the breaking out of the civil wars, in the reign of Charles I. ſeveral members of the family of Vernon ſat in the houſe of Commons; and theſe breathing a ſpirit of freedom, joined againſt the faction, who, by their evil counſels and falſe ſuggeſtions, wrought up the mind of the king to a belief of his being arbitrary, and of having an abſolute, indefeaſible juriſdiction over the perſons and lives of his ſubjects: and though there were ſome faithful patriots to repreſent by addreſſes and remonſtrances, in the moſt humble manner, the miſchievous effects of ſuch pernicious inſinuations, yet the unfortunate king was deaf to every advice, being intoxicated with titles, and daily teazed by his French queen, whoſe brother Lewis XIII. had ſubverted and overturned the parliament of France.

But though the family of Vernon was for preſerving the liberty of the ſubjects, yet they were far from leſſening the pre-

rogative, or detracting from the dignity of the crown: they were for making up matters, and declared themſelves openly againſt proceeding to the extremities which afterwards enſued: though they oppoſed tyranny, yet they acted with moderation; and though friends to liberty, yet they were never for ſtripping the crown of the minuteſt gem that might ſerve to make it ſhine with the brighter luſtre.

The father of Mr. Vernon, being ſecretary of ſtate to King William and Queen Mary, was enabled by an additional income to his paternal eſtate, which was but ſmall, to give an ample and polite education to his ſons, of whom Edward was the ſecond.

At the age of ſeven years he was ſent to Weſtminſter ſchool, then under the direction of the famous Dr. Buſby, a gentleman who was ſubject to an imperiouſneſs of temper, which, like other things, growing upon him, frequently wrought him up to exerciſe with ſeverity

and

and rancour the rod of diſcipline, which ought only to be uſed with the utmoſt judgment and diſcretion. Few eſcaped the laſh from Dr. Buſby, and among theſe few was Mr. Vernon, who both had a good ſpirit for letters, and, on every occaſion, diſcovered a complaiſance and ſagacity, which, as it argued him prudent and wiſe, ſo it procured him the affection and eſteem of the ſeveral maſters under whoſe inſpection he more immediately was. But though he ſtudied the Latin and Greek tongues aſſiduouſly, and by a ſeven years application had made a conſiderable progreſs in both, as alſo in the Hebrew, which laſt is taught at Weſtminſter ſchool, yet from the time he could walk, he betrayed an inclination towards the marine ſervice. He frequently withdrew from his ſtudies, to converſe with the watermen concerning the different compoſitions of a boat, a barge, a wherrey, and other ſmall craft. His allowance in pocket-money was frequently ſpent among ſeamen; and as the battle of la Hogue,

wherein the French loſt twenty one ſhips of the line, had happened a few years before, and that many of the ſailors, who had ſerved in the fleet, and fought in that ever memorable action, ſo fatal to France and to the ſchemes of the unfortunate King James, had come to reſide near the place where Mr. Vernon was, ſo he talked with them upon the ſeveral ſcenes they had gone through. Theſe he would often rehearſe amoug his ſchool-fellows, who at that very time began to call him by the name and title of Admiral Vernon; an appellation which in his riper years he ſo honourably bore.

As the ſecretary his father obſerved the natural turn of his ſon's genius, ſo he was too wiſe to thwart it immoderately, notwithſtanding his great inclination and that of his lady to train Mr. Edward up to the law. He indeed uſed ſome endeavours, and even proceeded to uſe the ferula, in order to make him diſcontinue his watry purſuits, and perhaps would have perſiſted, had not the mother frequently

quently interpoſed. One day in particular, the ſecretary was inſiſting with him, partly by promiſes, partly by threatenings, to give over the thoughts of the ſea ſervice, as being a ſtate of continual danger, and ſubjecting a perſon to live conſtantly among the moſt grovelling ſet of mortals, the very dregs and refuſe of the people. "Common ſeamen and common "ſoldiers," replied Mr. Edward, "may "deſerve to be called ſuch, but among "the commanders and admirals few of "theſe are to be found." The ſecretary then called for a copy of Virgil, in which he deſired his ſon to interpret that portion of the firſt book of the Æneid, which contains the deſcription of the ſtorm which ſcattered the fleet of Æneas, and which was ſo violent that the wind ſplit the waters in ſuch a manner, as the ground which they covered might be ſeen dry, and drove him and his companions on the ſhore of Carthage. "This ſtorm," ſaid Mr. Vernon, "proceeded from the "imagination of the poet, more than

" from any real thunder, lightning, or " agitation in the air; for it is not very " likely that Æolus ſhould have the winds " ſhut up in a mountain, and be able to " force the ſame out by the ſtroke of a " ſpear."

The ſecretary then ordered him to tranſlate that colloquy of Eraſmus called the Shipwreck, in which the veſſel is repreſented as riſing ſo high on the top of a billow, that at one time a perſon might lay his hand upon the moon, and at another time ſinking, in a manner, into the centre of the earth. " Are you not," ſaid the father, " perſuaded now?" " Theſe deſcriptions," anſwered Mr. Vernon, " never move me; a Dutchman's " imagination may be as fertile, and may " be as much at liberty, as that of an " Italian; both of them are fictitious " alike: but if a perſon is to be affright- " ened by dangers, there never had been " an exploit upon earth." To which the ſecretary anſwered, with great mildneſs, and with that gravity and compoſure, which

which ſo much become a parent when ſpeaking to a child upon a delicate ſubject, concerning what ſphere he is to act in hereafter, "Your reſolution ſeems to "be fixed, and to be as unalterable as "thoſe of Cato himſelf." "Yes," replied the ſon, with a modeſty ſuitable to the place wherein he ſtood, "I have "adopted the reſolution of Cato, and "though I do not chuſe to imitate him "in every thing, yet in ſome things I "do:" and ſo repeated the following lines from the ſecond book of Lucan's Pharſalia, concerning that ſtrict juſticiary heathen.

Theſe maxims Cato conſtantly obey'd,
Each end he view'd, and reaſon's laws him ſway'd;
He followed nature, nature's ſway him rul'd;
To ſave the ſtate his paſſions he controul'd *.

* *Naturamque ſequi patriæque impendere vitam.*

The father, though pleaſed to find ſuch ſagacity in his ſon, and ſuch a ſurpriſing progreſs in his ſtudies, was yet unwilling to give up the argument; for he judged that theſe uncommon abilities would aſſiſt him to make a bright and ſplendid appearance at the bar. He urged, few ſeamen ever attained that high reputation, which generals and ſoldiers frequently acquired. "Methinks," ſaid Mr. Vernon, "that the immortal lyrick poet "has beſtowed a higher encomium upon "ſeamen in general, than ever was be-"ſtowed upon thoſe moving in any other "ſphere."

His heart was oak, his lungs were braſs,
Who firſt, in brittle ſhips, did try
To brave the ſeas and ſtormy winds,
And ev'n the terrours of the ſky *.

"But," continued the father, "the vic-"tories gained by ſea were never honour-

* *Illi robur & æs triplex*
Circa pectus erat, qui fragilem truci
Commiſit pelago ratem.

"ed

" ed among the Romans, as thoſe obtain-
" ed at land: triumphs were devoted to
" the conquerors."—Here Mr. Edward interrupted, and ſaid, " Auguſtus Cæſar
" made a more glorious figure when en-
" tering Rome after the defeat of Mark
" Anthony and Cleopatra at Actium,
" than ever he or his predeceſſor Julius
" Cæſar did before. And not only ſo,
" but the apartment in the ſhield of Æ-
" neas, whereon that ſignal victory is
" painted in ſo maſterly a manner, is, I
" am told, the moſt glorious epiſode in
" the whole deſcription, which, if you
" pleaſe," continued he, " I ſhall repeat
" before you." The father charmed with the propoſal, deſired he might go on, and accordingly Mr. Vernon, in obedience to his father's commands, rehearſed the following lines from the eighth book of the Æneid.

Mars in the middle of the ſhining ſhield
Is grav'd, and ſtrides along the liquid field.

The Diræ ſouſe from heav'n with ſwift deſcent,
And Diſcord dy'd in blood, with garments rent,
Divides the preace: her ſteps Bellona treads,
And ſhakes her iron rod above their heads.
This ſeen; Apollo from his Actian height
Pours down his arrows; at whoſe winged flight,
The trembling Indians and Egyptians yield;
And ſoft Sabæans quit the wat'ry field;
The fatal miſtreſs * hoiſts her ſilken ſails,
And, ſhrinking from the fate, invokes the gales:
Aghaſt ſhe looks, and heaves her breaſt for breath,
Panting and pale, for fear of future death.
The god † had figur'd her as drawn along
In winds and waves, and ſcudding thro' the throng.

* *Cleopatra.* † *Vulcan.*

Juſt

Juſt oppoſite, ſad Nilus opens wide
His arms and ample boſom to the tide,
And ſpreads his mantle o'er the winding coaſt,
In which he wraps his queen, and hides the flying hoſt.
The victor * to the gods his thanks expreſs'd,
And Rome triumphant with his preſence bleſs'd.
Three hundred temples in the town he plac'd,
With ſpoils and altars ev'ry temple grac'd.
Three ſhining nights, and three ſucceeding days,
The fields reſound with ſhouts, the ſtreets with praiſe,
The domes with ſongs, the theatres with plays;
All altars flame; before each altar lies,
Drench'd in his gore, the deſtin'd ſacrifice.
Great Cæſar ſits ſublime upon his throne,
Before Apollo's porch of Parian ſtone;

* *Auguſtus Cæſar.*

Ac-

Accepts the preſents vow'd for victory,
And hangs the monumental crown on high.
Vaſt crowds of vanquiſh'd nations march along,
Various in arms, in habit and in tongue.

Many other examples might have been quoted, and even ſome from the hiſtory of England, concerning the more fatal ſtrokes given to a ſtate by obtaining a victory by ſea, than conquering by land; but it would not be ſuppoſed, that in ſo tender an age, every thing could occur.

By the time that this dialogue ended, ſupper was ready to be ſet upon the table; and company coming in, another diſcourſe was introduced, and ſo the matter was dropped at that period.

However, on retiring to his chamber, the ſecretary informed his lady of what had paſſed between him and her ſon, and ſhe, willing to favour the aſpiring genius of the youth, gave it as her ſincere opinion,

nion, that no boy's inclination ſhould be violated in the choice of an employment, but that this liberty was to ſupply the want of a perſonal eſtate; and that on this and many other accounts, the youth ſhould be left to purſue the bent of his own genins, and to follow that employment for which nature ſeemed to have deſigned him.

From that time forward he was free from all manner of ſollicitations, and the father became furniſhed with a new argument, to prevail upon his ſon to ſtudy the Latin tongue more aſſiduouſly than hitherto: for, ſays he, "As you intend "to be a ſeaman, know that after leaving "England, you will find but few to con- "verſe with in the Engliſh language. "Acquaint yourſelf well with the Latin "tongue; for, by means of it, you may "ſoon attain the knowledge of any o- "ther."

His advice was followed; and from that day forward he applied cloſely to the peruſal of the colloquies of Corderius

and

and Eraſmus, in which are contained the different forms of converſation upon the hour, upon different articles of life.

By application and practice, he was capable, at the age of ſixteen, of holding a dialogue in Latin, for the ſpace of an hour, upon any ordinary ſubject.

But though the prejudices of the ſecretary againſt a ſea employment were conquered, yet the ſeeds of averſion to his ſon's following that buſineſs were not entirely rooted up. He did not indeed inſiſt againſt his proceeding, but then he gave no directions towards preparing for it, or qualifying him for proſecuting his intentions. The young man, of his own proper motion, deſired he might be initiated in mathematical learning, and particularly be taught the theory of navigation and geography.

For this purpoſe he was ſent to the univerſity of Oxford, where he attended the lectures of Dr. John Keil, Savilian profeſſor of aſtronomy. Under him, he attained a general knowledge of geome-

try, but little of navigation, or of the practical parts, which people ſeldom can acquire at any publick ſchool.

Upon his return from the univerſity, he ſtudied the theory of navigation under a private tutor; and afterwards applied to fortification and gunnery, and taking the plans of towns. In all which branches he made a very conſiderable progreſs.

The age in which he lived was the latter part of that period of time, which the French hiſtorian Voltaire diſtinguiſhes by the name of, "The age of Lewis XIV." An age in which military diſcipline was obſerved with equal ſtrictneſs as in the days of Brutus, Camillus, and even Cæſar himſelf.

France became a ſeminary of ſoldiers; and the ſpirit for war diffuſing itſelf, by means of French gold, through the different nations, Europe was for many years one continued ſcene of blood, rapine, and ſlaughter.

Lewis

Lewis XIV. had his emiſſaries in every court of Europe, and the moſt part of the courts of the empire were actually in his pay. Germany was in a blaze through his means; yet commerce, trade, and manufactures were encouraged by him: the ſciences were generouſly patroniſed, which had ſo good an effect, that the ingenious vied with each other in finding out new diſcoveries, and the grand monarch always countenanced theſe with his royal approbation.

But of all the new diſcoveries, nothing pleaſed him and the royal family ſo much as theſe which tended to improve the art of war. An inſtance of which we ſhall give.

In the year 1677, when the Dauphin viſited the royal obſervatory at Paris, M. Romer the profeſſor of aſtronomy, among other things, ſhewed him a machine, out of which a ſyringe diſcharged water, deſcribing the curve called a parabola, more or leſs excentric, according to the different degrees of elevation: thus exhibiting

biting by ocular demonſtration what Mr. Blondel had demonſtrated by means of geometry; and confirming by practice the theory which M. de Perrault had advanced concerning the aſcent and deſcent of heavy bodies. The Dauphin, the ſame whoſe mind was formed by the precepts of the immortal Telemachus, wrote by the eminent and worthy Fenelon, beſtowed a preſent upon M. de Romer, which gave him as grand an opinion of the generoſity of the prince, as his highneſs had of the other's ingenuity.

The news ſpread throughout Europe; the experiment, ſo eaſy to be performed, was received every where with the utmoſt applauſe; and Sir Iſaac Newton, whoſe diſcoveries were beyond the reach of other men, ſhewed by his theory, the cauſe why a projectile deſcribed the figure of a parabola.

Happy was it for Mr. Vernon, to live in an age wherein the world was illuminated with ſuch uſeful knowledge; but ſtill happier, to be acquainted with the man

man whoſe divine genius, by the application of geometry to his philoſophical enquiries, had diſcovered the true ſyſtem of the world, laid down a theory to account for all the irregularities of the moon, the ebbing and flowing of the ſea, the paths of the comets, and whatever nature had hitherto concealed.

He was perſonally acquainted with Sir Iſaac, who treated him with the tenderneſs and affection of a father, and who frequently ſhewed him the ſtars and conſtellations. He was the firſt who ſhewed him the method of taking the latitude by an obſervation of the pole ſtar, telling him, that he wiſhed an inſtrument could be found for diſcovering the longitude, that is, the eaſting and weſting of one place from another, but this he deſpaired of.

England at that time was happy in her generals as well as in men of ſpeculation and genius. The duke of Marlborough, whoſe couuſels were as hurtful to France as his arms, was then at the head of her armies,

armies, and ſuch was his authority as to command the ſubmiſſion of the troops of Holland: the Dutch yielded to him.

He had under him ſome of the ableſt generals that ever Europe produced; among theſe were the duke of Argyll, the earls of Orkney and Stair, the viſcount Cobham; the generals Roſs, Hay, and Douglaſs; generals Wood and Stanhope; men who did honour to their country, and while they were dreaded, yet procured the love and eſteem even of their very enemies. They never undertook the execution of a ſcheme which they did not accompliſh, nor ever returned from an expedition without effecting their buſineſs.

Nor was Britain leſs fortunate in her admirals and ſea officers, than in her generals and commanders on land. The navy at that time was under the beſt regulation; there was no animoſity among them, no diviſion interrupted the execution of the beſt concerted projects.

The

The office of lord high admiral was then veſted in the perſon of a prince, whoſe father's throne had frequently been ſhaken by the intrigues and cabals of the court of Verſailles. The heart of Prince George of Denmark was entirely bent upon promoting the glory of his royal conſort, inſeparably connected with the intereſt and happineſs of her people. He pitched upon men of merit and experience to go forth with the fleets, and to execute his ſchemes.

The name of a Rook, a Wager, a Ruſſel, and a Byng ſounded fear into the ears of Frenchmen, and imprinted a panic into the hearts of the other nations.

The name of Sir Cloudeſley Shovel was mentioned with terror both in France and Spain, and through the different ports of the Mediterranean.

So many great perſons were of themſelves ſufficient to ennoble any nation, and to promote the glory of any monarch; which yet might not have ſhone with ſo bright

bright a luſtre, if a ſcene of action had not opened by the intrigues and policy of France in every quarter, but particularly in England itſelf.

The court of France by evil counſels had ruined the affairs of Charles I. In compenſation for the catholick league, which they gave out to have been craftily fomented by Queen Elizabeth, and which at once ravaged the provinces of the kingdom; ſhe framed a covenant *, which ſhe artfully diſperſed by her emiſſaries, and in her turn diſtracted the kingdoms of England, Scotland, and Ireland. She had, by her inſinuations and policy, ruined the affairs of Charles II. whom ſhe prevailed on to cede Dunkirk, at the moderate price of 500,000 l. She had procured the favour of the duke of York, by encouraging him to act the merchant, to the great detriment and loſs of the trading part of the city of London.

* The ſolemn league and covenant, contrived by cardinal Richlieu, and ſworn to by the kingdoms of England, Scotland, and Ireland.

She

She had by her emiſſaries endeavoured to overturn the proteſtant church of England, and had ſpirited up the ſhort-ſighted King James to make a general maſſacre of the Proteſtants, of which ſhe herſelf had ſet ſo recent and ſo glaring an example.

That unfortunate monarch liſted too much to the voice of evil counſellors, and to the daily ſollicitation of a pettiſh, revengeful Italian lady, who was of the ſame family with Katherine de Medicis, the contriver, I had almoſt ſaid the executioner, of the maſſacre of Paris, on the 1ſt of Auguſt 1572.

By the advice of his conſort, and of his prieſts and confeſſors, he was inexorable to the tears and cries of the duke of Monmouth, who abjectly begged his life upon his knees. He had advanced judge Jeffries to the poſt of lord high chancellor of England, as a recompence for a chain of unparalelled ſeverities. He had diſguſted the city of London, by cauſing one of the moſt conſiderable aldermen of the

the metropolis, to be hanged, drawn, and quartered in Cheapſide, on account of a ſham conſpiracy. He had raiſed the murmur and reſentment of many corporations, by violating their privileges, calling in their charters, and declaring his will to be abſolute, and himſelf to be above the law. He had drawn againſt his conduct an univerſal clamour, by confining ſeven biſhops to the Tower, and breaking through the privileges of the two univerſities: he had irritated the army, by filling up the commiſſions with popiſh officers; and, to crown all, he is ſaid to have ſet up a fictitious child, as his ſon.

Theſe were ſome of the many things which rendered the people of Great Britain ready for a revolt, and eager to graſp at the firſt opportunity of entering heartily into a war with France, to whom, as the natural enemy of England, the ſpring of all the above grievances was aſcribed.

The people of Britain, almoſt to a man, roſe up againſt King James, and

had recourſe to the firſt proteſtant heir for relief. The prince of Orange, who was great in his victories, reſigned in his misfortunes, and admirable in his ſchemes, had a general invitation given him by the army, the church, and the ſtate: he came to the deliverance of Britain from tyranny and oppreſſion, and ſoon was the enterprize crowned with a ſucceſs that is unparalelled.

No ſooner was he upon the throne, than to gratify the univerſal call of an incenſed people, he declared war againſt France; and though with little ſucceſs at firſt, as the people of Britain were ſtrangers to arms, having been engaged in no war for many years, yet there were able and experienced ſeamen ſtill to be found. The fleets of England at this period triumphed over thoſe of France, and by the advantages gained by ſea, ſufficiently made up any loſſes and diſappointments that were felt at land.

The

The fleets of France had ſuffered greatly, they were generally conquered; and the Britiſh, by the oppoſition made to them, had occaſion of learning, by experience, to ſtand the briſkeſt aſſaults, and to preſs forward through fire and ſmoke, as we ſhall ſee hereafter.

Under one of theſe great commanders, who had diſtinguiſhed himſelf in King William's wars, did Mr. Vernon firſt enter upon the ſea ſervice. The firſt expedition in which he was concerned, is famous in the annals of England. He was with Admiral Hopſon in the Torbay, at the deſtroying of the French fleet of thirty ſail of the line, and twenty two Spaniſh galleons, in the harbour of Vigo, on the 12th of October 1702.

This expedition, ſo glorious in itſelf, and ſo fatal to the enemy, was conducted by Sir George Rook, in the Somerſet, and executed by Vice-admiral Hopſon. By favour of a thick miſt, after having ſure information of the poſition of the

enemies ſhips from M. Beavoir, a gentleman of Jerſey, and chaplain on board the Pembroke, they came cloſe to the mouth of the harbour in the morning. The preceding night was ſpent in debarking the troops, and making the neceſſary diſpoſitions for conquering the difficulties, which the French had thrown in their way.

M. Chateau Renaud, the French admiral, had drawn up the fleet beyond a very narrow ſtreight, about a mile over, defended by a boom on the one ſide, and platforms on both ſides, whereon he had planted his beſt and largeſt guns. He had likewiſe laid athwart it a very ſtrong boom, made up of maſts, yards, cables, top-chains, and caſks, faſtened together with ropes, ſeveral yards in circumference, underrun with hawſers and cables, and kept ſteady by anchors caſt on both ſides of it: the top-chain at each end was moored to a ſhip of ſeventy guns. Within the boom, five men of war, of ſixty or ſeventy

venty guns each, were ſo moored, with their broadſides fronting the entrance of the ſtreights, that they might fire at any ſhips that came near the boom and platforms.

However, theſe precautions were not ſufficient to terrify minds reſolute in themſelves, inured to danger, and zealous for promoting the glory of their country. Every one vied who ſhould be the firſt to venture his life in the daring adventure.

To the intrepid vice-admiral Hopſon did the honour fall of firſt forcing into the harbour. The whole fleet bore up briſkly to the boom; but all of a ſudden, when the van was got within ſhot of the batteries, it became ſo calm, that they were obliged to come to an anchor. In a little time, a freſh gale ſpringing up, Hopſon in the Torbay, being next to the boom, immediately cut his cables, clapt on all his ſails, bore upon the boom amidſt all the fire of the enemy, broke through it at once, caſt anchor between the Bour-

bon and Eſperance, two men of war which the French admiral had placed near to ſupport it; the Torbay recived ſeveral broadſides from them.

His example was followed; the Dutch vice-admiral entered by the very paſſage which Mr. Hopſon had made, and ſoon took the Bourbon.

All this time the Torbay was in imminent danger, for ſhe was clapt on board by a fireſhip, which fired her rigging, and muſt have deſtroyed her, had it not been for the following accident.

The French fireſhip had been a merchantman laden with ſnuff, and haſtily fitted up for a fireſhip. She blew up in an inſtant, but the ſnuff ſuffocated the flame, and ſo prevented the dreadful havock that was lookt for from this engine of deſtruction.

However, the Torbay ſuffered greatly; her foretopmaſt was ſhot by the board; an hundred and fifteen of her men were killed and drowned, nine were wounded.

All

All her ſails were ſcorched and burnt; her foreyard was burnt to a coal, and her larboard ſhrouds, fore and aft, were burnt to the dead eyes, to ſuch a degree, that though ſhe was preſerved, the admiral was obliged to leave her, and hoiſt his flag on board the Monmouth.

But while admiral Hopſon was engaged with the enemy's ſhips, captain Bockenham, in the Aſſociation of ninety guns, laid his broadſide againſt a battery of ſeventy guns, on the left ſide of the harbour; and captain Wynell in the Barfleur, of the ſame force, battered the fort on right.

Thus for ſome time there was a conſiderable firing of great and ſmall ſhot on both ſides, till the French admiral, ſeeing the platform and fort in the hands of the victorious Engliſh, his fireſhip ſpent in vain, the Bourbon taken, the boom cut, and the confederate fleet pouring in upon him, he ſet fire to his own ſhip, and ordered the captains of the other ſhips in

his diviſion to follow his example; which was begun in ſuch hurry and confuſion, that nine of the galleons were taken, four of which by the Engliſh, and five by the Dutch, the reſt being ſunk, burnt, or otherwiſe deſtroyed: the men of war ſhared the ſame fate with the galleons.

The money in gold and ſilver, taken on this occaſion, amounted to ſix millions of pieces of eight, the Spaniards having carried about fourteen millions out of the galleons a few days before.

This great advantage on the ſide of the Engliſh and Dutch was purchaſed at the expence of a ſmall number of lives; few ſhips ſuffered, except the Torbay, as mentioned before. The Kent, whoſe boatſwain was wounded, had her foremaſt ſhot, and two men killed. The Barfleur's foremaſt was ſhot; ſhe had two men killed, and as many wounded.

The land forces, who had annoyed the enemy during the time that the fleet was entering, and ſeconded the others operations,

tions, ſuffered but little, conſidering the dangerous enterprize in which they were engaged. They only loſt two lieutenants and forty ſoldiers, who were killed on the ſpot: colonel Perrie was wounded in the thigh, by a cannon ball from one of our own men of war; colonel Seymour, colonel Newton, and Mr. Talmaſh, with thirty private ſoldiers, were wounded alſo.

On the ſide of the French, the loſs was pretty equal to that of the allies; but then, about four hundred officers and men were taken priſoners; among whom M. de Algeire, commodore of the ſquadron, the M. de Galiſſoniere, M. du Sorrel, and ſeveral other officers of note. The French admiral and Spaniſh general, with ſome others, made their eſcape; but Don Joſepho Cheion, the Spaniſh admiral, was made priſoner.

The conſequence of the victory was a vaſt booty both of plate and other things; a great quantity of which, particularly

the French property, being found at Rodondella, an harbour which lies above Vigo, the duke of Ormond, commander of the land forces, ordered the ſame to be immediately divided among the officers of that part of the fleet which ſeconded the efforts of his grace.

The expedition to Vigo ending ſo much to the glory and advantage of the confederates, the united fleets of England and Holland, after embarking the land forces, ſet ſail on the 19th of October, and entered the Channel on the 6th of November, where they ſeparated, each ſteering to their reſpective harbours. The Engliſh came up to Chatham, where they were welcomed with repeated acclamations and huzzas. The queen herſelf beſtowed upon the officers and ſoldiers marks of her royal approbation: ſome had medals and chains of gold given them, and the others had preſents according to their reſpective ſtations. Mr. Vernon's behaviour was par-

particularly remarked by admiral Hopſon himſelf, and by him he was recommended to the admiralty.

The city of London, whoſe wealth and grandeur entirely depended on trade and commerce, invited the admirals and officers to dine at Guildhall, where a moſt magnificent and ſplendid entertainment was prepared for them, and where the freedom of the city was preſented to them in golden boxes. Mr. Vernon was at the entertainment, and ſhared in the honour conferred by the metropolis.

In the year 1702. a war was begun, which, in the ſpace of ſeven years, reduced France almoſt to deſpair and miſery. Her fleets were, before the end thereof, obliged to ſeek for ſhelter within her own harbours.

'Tis true, they ſhewed their head in America, whither Sir George Rook detached captain Walker in the Burford, with five third rates and ten tranſports, having four regiments on board, which

entirely changed the face of affairs in that part of the world; for they effectually blocked up the harbours in Hiſpaniola, ſunk ſeveral privateers, took the town of la Bayliffe, and Baſſeterre in Guardalupe, burnt and deſtroyed the enemies houſes, works, ſugar canes, and proviſions.

In this expedition, Mr. Vernon was no more than a ſecond lieutenant on board the Reſolution. However, in this ſtation he had a fair opportunity of acquainting himſelf with the Leeward iſlands; which he afterwards knew ſo well, that he drew plans of the harbours, and ſounded the bays with ſuch exactneſs, that ſcarce a bank of ſand eſcaped his obſervation.

After deſtroying the ſhipping of the enemy, the fleet returned into England, where rejoicings were already made, on account of the advantages gained by Sir George Rook in the Channel ſervice.

So many loſſes were of themſelves ſufficient to have ruined any nation, yet

Lewis

Lewis le Grand, thirſting after univerſal monarchy, had ſtill a number of courtiers about him, whoſe heads were ever employed in contriving ſchemes for extricating him out of all his difficulties. Nor was he diſmayed, notwithſtanding the king of Portugal had joined in the grand alliance againſt him.

In the year 1703, the Dutch were found to correſpond with the common enemy, who fitted out a ſquadron of men of war from Dunkirk, with whom the Saliſbury and Adventure falling in, theſe were taken by them.

Upon this, rear admiral Byng, with five ſhips of the line, was ordered to lie in wait, and intercept them; and rear admiral Beaumont was ſtationed off that port for the ſame purpoſe, but in vain; for the French ſhips got in with their prizes, before theſe could get up with them.

Short liv'd was the joy of the French court on account of this advantage; for

rear

rear admiral Dilkes, on the 22d of July 1703, took fifteen ſail of merchantmen, burnt ſix, and ſunk three, to the weſtward of Granville; and on the 27th, ſeventeen more merchant ſhips were deſtroyed, with two men of war, and one was taken.

Sir Cloudeſley Shovel had likewiſe good ſucceſs this year. He greatly interrupted the enemy's commerce, and took ſeveral rich prizes, in their return from the Weſt Indies: and having in four months time viſited the port of Liſbon, he entered the Mediterranean, and arrived at Algier, ſpreading terror wherever he came.

The only diſaſter which the Engliſh met with this year, was in the ſtorm which roſe on the 26th of November, and was ſo violent, that the Vanguard, Northumberland, the Stirling-caſtle, and the Reſtoration, with the Mary, a fourth rate, were deſtroyed; as were the Mortar bomb, the Reſolution, the Litchfield, the Newcaſtle, the Veſuvius fireſhip, and Arundel.

del. All the men of the laſt, being one hundred and fifteen, were ſaved, as were ſome of the other ſhips company; but of the whole, about one thouſand five hundred and nineteen ſeamen were drowned.

The year 1704 wore a promiſing aſpect. The king of Spain, ſince known by the name of Charles VI. emperor of Germany, was conveyed by a fleet of Engliſh and Dutch men of war to Liſbon, where he arrived from Portſmouth on the 25th of February, in thirteen days. In ſailing up the Tagus, the king was ſaluted by all the forts and caſtles, with a triple diſcharge of all their cannon, ſtriking their flags three ſeveral times before they fired.

Sir George Rook anchored with the fleet below Belem, a league ſhort of the king's palace; where Mr. Methven, the Engliſh ambaſſador's ſon (his father being confined with the gout) went on board, and welcomed his majeſty, in name of the

the queen of England, as did the duke of Cadaval, the ſame evening, in name of his majeſty of Portugal.

The catholic king ſent immediately the prince of Lichtenſtein to return the compliment, and to condole his Portugueſe majeſty on the death of the Infanta, his eldeſt daughter, whom the king of Spain was to have married, had ſhe not died a few days before his arrival.

On the 27th of February, the king of Spain was received at Liſbon, in a manner ſufficient to deſcribe the magnificence of the Portugueſe.

He was on board the Royal Catherine, which with the other ſhips of war, ſailed up, and anchored over againſt the royal palace, the caſtles on both ſides the river firing continually. Between four and five in the afternoon, the king of Portugal, accompanied by the two princes his eldeſt ſons, with ſeveral of the grandees, embarked on board a very noble brigantine, rowed by forty men, clad in crimſon velvet,

vet, faced with ſilver, attended by the reſt of the nobility in barges and feluccas, and went on board the admiral's ſhip. When his majeſty came by the ſhip's ſide, he ſtruck his flag; and when he entered the ſhip, Sir George ſtruck his, let fly his ſtreamer, and ſaluted him with twenty five guns, which was taken from the whole fleet, and anſwered on ſhore. His catholic majeſty received the king of Portugal at the ladder head, which upon this occaſion was made very commodious. and conducted him to his cabin, giving him the right hand. After a ſhort ſtay there, and taking a moſt magnificent deſert prepared for them, the two kings entered the brigantine.

On putting off, both ſhips hoiſted their flags, and Sir George gave two ſalutes, each of five and twenty guns, which the other ſhips followed.

His catholic majeſty had the right hand on board the brigantine, and both kings landed under a triumphal arch, erected

erected at the head of a very magnificent bridge, built for that purpoſe. The bridge was adorned with ſeveral other triumphal arches, which run a good way into the river from the palace gate.

At landing, the king of Portugal gave his catholic majeſty the right, and taking him by the hand, led him along the bridge to the palace, and to the royal chapel, where Te Deum was ſung on account of the ſafe arrival of the catholic king.

His catholic majeſty, in token of his entire ſatisfaction, complimented Sir George Rook with a ſword, the hilt of which was ſet with diamonds, a buckle for an hatband, and a hook to cock up a hat ſet with diamonds alſo. To captain Wiſhart he gave his picture ſet with diamonds, and two hundred guineas. To captain Fletcher the like picture, but of leſs value, and one hundred guineas. To each of the captains who carried over his retinue, one hundred guineas and a gold medal; and to the other captains fifty piſtoles

piſtoles each, and fifty for their reſpective companies. To lord Archibald Hamilton and captain Bertie, each the like picture as to captain Fletcher, and an hundred guineas. To colonel Griffith of the board of green cloth, his majeſty's picture. He likewiſe ordered a thouſand piſtoles to be diſtributed among the other officers of the queen's family who had attended upon him. Mr. Vernon, who was in the admiral's own ſhip, had an hundred guineas and a ring from his majeſty's own hand.

At Liſbon there was nothing but plays, maſquerades, and feſtivals, till the 5th, when Sir George Rook ſailed from Liſbon, leaving vice admiral Leake, with orders to remain there. However, he did not get clear of the river till the 9th; and the next day, he had intelligence from a Dutch privateer of three Spaniſh ſhips of force and a dogger, with whom he came up on the 12th, and took them after a ſhort reſiſtance. He returned to Liſbon with

with his prizes, where the fleet was reinforced on the 21ſt, by one ſecond rate man of war, four third rates, and two fireſhips from England, where a change had happened in the miniſtry, and the earl of Nottingham had reſigned his place of ſecretary of ſtate.

Sir George Rook was not the only perſon to diſtreſs the French this year by ſea; for commodore Butler, in his expedition to the coaſt of Normandy, deſtroyed the French commodore, a ſhip of twenty two guns, a frigate of fourteen, with ten merchantmen, and two privateers, to the weſtward of Grandance bay.

Sir Cloudeſley Shovel took four prizes alſo. He was joined at ſea by Sir George Rook, who ſailed from Liſbon on the 29th of April, with thirty ſeven ſhips of the line, and four fireſhips.

In a few days, the French fleet, under the command of the count de Tholouſe, a natural ſon of Lewis XIV. appeared off the Rock of Liſbon, directing their courſe

courſe to the Mediterranean; upon which a frigate was diſpatched with the news to Sir George, who, in place of going to Nice or Villa Franca, diverted his courſe to wait for the enemy; ſix of whoſe ſhips of war fell in with the Engliſh fleet off Cape Palos, to the eaſtward of Carthagena, nigh which port they had eſcaped in the night time.

From Carthagena Sir George proceeded to Barcelona, where ſome troops were landed, while the fleet bombarded it by ſea, but to no purpoſe; and therefore he retired, after reimbarking the marines.

Having put to ſea with a good breeze, on the 27th of May, the French fleet were deſcried, and purſued into the harbour of Toulon, whence Sir George ſteered his courſe to the mouth of the Streights, where he was joined by the ſquadron under Sir Cloudeſley Shovel, between whom and him it was agreed to make a ſudden attempt on Gibraltar.

The

The fleet was then about ſeven leagues to the eaſtward of Tetuan, whence they ſailed on the night of the 20th, and in the morning got into the bay.

The ſame evening the marines, both Engliſh and Dutch, to the number of eighteen hundred, headed by the prince of Heſſe, were landed on the iſthmus to the northward of the town. This done, his highneſs ſent a ſummons to the governor, demanding the town ſhould be ſurrendered to King Charles III. which being refuſed, the admiral ordered in ſome boats, under captain Whitaker, who burnt a French privateer at the old Mole.

On the 23d, ſoon after the break of day, the ſhips being all placed, a furious cannonading began. Above 10,000 ſhot were diſcharged in five hours, againſt the town. The enemy were beat from their guns in every quarter.

The ſouth Mole head was taken poſſeſſion of by captains Whitaker, Hicks,

and

and Jumper; they puſhed on ſhore with their pinaces and ſome armed boats. The enemy ſprung a mine, which blew up the fortifications upon the mole, killed two lieutenants, with about forty private men, and wounded ſixty. However, the brave tars kept poſſeſſion of the platform, until captain Whitaker had landed the other ſeamen who had been ordered upon the ſervice. They advanced, took a redout half way between the mole and the town, and poſſeſſed themſelves of many of the enemy's cannon.

The admiral on this ſent a letter to the governor, and another to the prince of Heſſe, deſiring his highneſs to ſummon the garriſon peremptorily to ſurrender the town.

Accordingly, the next day in the morning, a capitulation was propoſed by them, and hoſtages were exchanged. The capitulation being concluded, every thing in the place was given up, except three braſs cannons, with twelve charges of powder

powder and ball, proviſion for ſix days march, and whatever might be carried out in trunks and portmanteaus. The ſubjects of the French king were only excepted.

Things being thus ſettled, the prince marched into the town in the evening, took poſſeſſion of the land and north mole gates, and the outworks.

They found an hundred guns mounted on the ramparts, all facing the ſea, and the two narrow paſſes to the land. There was a ſufficient quantity of ammunition and proviſion; but then the garriſon conſiſted only of one hundred and fifty men, who, if leſs numerous, might have defended the works, in the opinion of the moſt ſkilful engineers, againſt ſeveral thouſands. But what cannot bravery, when ſeconded by conduct and experience, be able to do!

The aſſailants had only ſixty men killed, two of whom were lieutenants, and one a maſter of a ſhip. Two hundred

and

and ſixteen were wounded; among whom was one captain, ſeven lieutenants, and a boatſwain: a very inconſiderable loſs in obtaining ſo great and ſo glorious a conqueſt.

It is a failing in human nature, to raiſe doubts where there are none, and to figure dangers when theſe are at the greateſt diſtance, in this promoting the enemy's cauſe more than the enemy themſelves do.

However, this was not the caſe with Sir George Rook, nor with the prince of Heſſe; they puſhed boldly on, "and "fortune favoured the brave." For the day of the attack being Sunday, almoſt all the women in the town had gone to a little chapel at four miles diſtance, to implore the aſſiſtance of the virgin Mary: the Engliſh and Dutch ſoldiers, being on the iſthmus that divides Gibraltar from the main land, were between the Spaniſh ſoldiers and their wives, which was a very great inducement to the citizens to oblige the governor to capitulate.

The reduction of Gibraltar was followed by a ſea-fight off Barcelona, between the French fleet and thoſe of England and Holland: the former conſiſted of fifty ſhips of the line, and eight frigates; the latter of three and fifty, twelve of which were Dutch.

The engagement began in the morning of the 13th Auguſt, and continued obſtinate for two hours, when the van and rear of the French began to give way, the former fled from Sir Cloudeſley Shovel, and the latter from the Dutch admiral. However, rhe main body of the French was very ſtrong, and the ammunition of the Engliſh ſhips being ſpent before Gibraltar, ſeveral ſhips of rear admiral Byng's and Dilke's diviſion withdrew from the line; ſo that the taking of Gibraltar was the deliverance of the fleet commaded by the count de Tholouſe.

The battle ended with the day; and the French fleet, by the help of their gallies, went to the leeward, never more

to

to return to the charge, which Sir George Rook wanted to renew next morning.

Both fleets were roughly handled, every captain and ſailor behaving beyond the power of cavil or reflexion: the Engliſh ſpirit never was more prevalent than in the ſeamen on that memorable day.

The French ſteered for Toulon, and the confederates returned to Gibraltar, whence Sir George Rook ſet out for England, taking with him ſuch of the ſhips as had not been diſabled, having left Sir John Leake with the reſt.

He arrived at Spithead on the 25th of September, and on the 29th waited on the queen, who received him in the moſt gracious manner; and, with her royal conſort, expreſſed an entire ſatisfaction with every part of his conduct.

On the 9th of October, Sir Cloudeſley Shovel and ſeveral of his captains went to Windſor to wait on her majeſty, who re-

ceived them very graciouſly, and conferred the honour of knighthood on captain John Jennings, commander of the St. George, for his ſignal ſervice in the late ſea-engagement. Not long after, the ſame honour was conferred on George Byng eſq; rear-admiral of the red ſquadron, and on Thomas Dilkes eſq; rear-admiral of the white. The other officers and ſeamen likewiſe ſhared amply of the royal bounty, and Mr. Vernon received a purſe of two hundred guineas from her majeſty's own hand.

In the beginning of the year 1705, the Spaniards beſieged Gibraltar. The French were deſirous to have it reſtored, but the Engliſh were eager to retain it.

The efforts of the houſe of Bourbon, now more cloſely than ever united in one common cauſe, were fruitleſs. They loſt ſeveral of their ſhips at different times; particularly, on the 10th of March, three of their men of war were taken, and two others, one of them the Magnanimous,

on

on board of which was the admiral Monſieur de Ponti, run a-ſhore to the weſtward of Marbella, and were burnt by the French themſelves; whoſe courage not abating, it was judged proper to keep a fleet conſtantly in the Mediterranean for favouring the operations of the war.

Sir Cloudeſley Shovel was again ſent into theſe parts. He hoiſted his flag on board the Britannia, and was followed by ſeven more ſhips of the line, commanded by Sir John Jennings. On their coming to Liſbon, the united fleets of England and Holland conſiſted of three firſt rates, ſix ſecond rates, twelve third rates, and eight fourth rates, in all twenty nine ſhips of the line, beſide fifth and ſixth rates, fire-ſhips, bomb-veſſels, and ſmall craft.

On the 17th of July, his catholic majeſty went on board the Ranelagh at Liſbon, and ſailed for Gibraltar; where, under protection of the fleet, he firſt took poſſeſſion of his kingdom.

From Gibraltar the fleet, having twelve thouſand land forces on board, ſailed on the 5th of Auguſt to Altea bay, where they watered, and where the people came in from all parts to offer their ſervice to king Charles, and to implore his protection. They brought with them all manner of proviſion and refreſhments, for which they were liberally paid. The other towns and villages, for an hundred miles round, ſoon followed their example. In ſeveral places, the peaſants roſe in a body, and ſeized ſome towns in which was but a ſlender garriſon.

From Altea the fleet ſailed for the bay of Barcelona; where having anchored, the Spaniards began to fire from the mole, and from a battery near the ſea, upon the tranſports as they approached the ſhore. The governor's jealouſy not a little contributed to this ſucceſs; for being apprehenſive that ſome of the garriſon were in the intereſt of King Charles, he deferred marching out of the town.

The

The next day, the prince of Heſſe-Darmſtadt landed with the forces, unmoleſted, at Badelona, a place a league diſtant from the former, the inhabitants lending all poſſible aſſiſtance. Next day, the city was inveſted, while the people of the country ſecured all the avenues leading to their camp.

On the 17th his catholic majeſty went on ſhore, the whole fleet having ſaluted him at his departure. He was welcomed by a triple diſcharge of the ſmall arms from the camp on ſhore, and by the loudeſt acclamations from the country people who came in crowds to receive him.

The generals however, miſtaking the ſtrength of the place, began to deſpair of ſucceſs, and the ſea officers declared for bombarding the town from the fleet, while the approaches were made by land. But as the king would not conſent to this, the enterprize was near being laid aſide, and a reſolution taken to ſail for Ferra-

gona; which would have happened, had not the king, who was perſonally preſent in the coucil of war, interpoſed.

Both Engliſh and Dutch officers were of opinion, that their force was unequal to the taſk, the garriſon being nearly as numerous as the beſiegers. Almoſt every perſon was perſuaded, till the king himſelf aroſe from his ſeat, and in a ſpeech which laſted near half an hour, removed all their objections; treating every one whoſe argument he handled with particular civilities and the moſt generous addreſs. He ſupported what the prince of Heſſe had aſſerted concerning the good affections of many in the town. He ſaid, that in the ſtate in which his affairs then ſtood, nothing could be propoſed but what would be attended with difficulties. All was doubtful, and muſt be put to the hazard, and this ſeemed leſs dangerous than any thing elſe that had been propoſed. "Many," continued he, "of "my ſubjects have come and declared for "me,

" me, to the hazard of their lives; it be-
" comes me therefore to let them ſee that
" I will run the ſame hazard with them:
" and I deſire that every one of you,
" gentlemen, would ſtay ſo long with me,
" till ſuch attempts ſhall be made, as all
" the world may be convinced that no-
" thing could be done. But if the orders
" given any of you oblige you to leave
" me, yet I cannot leave my own ſub-
" jects."

The words of the king were perſuaſive. The army ſat down before Barcelona; nor were they diſcouraged, though the ſtores, upon examination, were found defective in quality, and far ſhort of the quantities which by their liſts they expected to find. Whether this followed from treachery or careleſſneſs is but a circumſtance, there is much of both in all publick offices.

The prince of Heſſe adviſed the ſurpriſing of the caſtle and citadel of Montjoy,

which ſcheme the earl of Peterborough approved of. The attack was made on the ſecond of September with great reſolution, but with the loſs of his highneſs: a muſket-ball paſſed thro' his thigh, tore an artery, and occaſioned a vaſt effuſion of blood; but not to diſcourage his men, he marched on as if he had not been wounded, till the ſpirits of his great heart being no longer able to ſupport him, he all of a ſudden fell to the ground. After his death the aſſailants began to retire by the orders of the commanding officer, of which the earl of Peterborough being informed, he advanced up and rallied them, tranſported with indignation at the orders; he countermanded them, drew his ſword, and threw away his ſcabbard, ſaying, "Sure "I am, all brave men will follow me." On this the men marched on with alacrity, his lordſhip expoſing himſelf all the time to the greateſt danger.

On the 6th the citadel, with all the works belonging to it, ſurrendered to co-

lonel Southwell, who was made governor of it as a recompence of his bravery.

After this ſucceſs the ſiege was puſhed with great vigour, the trenches were opened on the ninth; a battery of fifty guns and twenty mortars begun to play, and by the king's command, the bomb-veſſels threw about four hundred and twelve ſhells into the town. Eight men of war Engliſh and Dutch, under Sir Stafford Fairnhorn, cannonaded it from the ſea; while the batteries plyed it on the ſhore. Many of the townſ-people run out in crowds for protection; others murmured exceedingly, and preſſed the governor to capitulate: their intreaties were heard; a capitulation was ſigned the twenty-eighth, when the gate and baſtion of St. Antonio was delivered up, as was the city in three days after.

On the 2d of October the king made his entry into Barcelona, attended by ſome of the grandees of Spain, the admirals of the fleet, the general officers, and a nume-

rous retinue, of whom Mr. Vernon was one: the people received him with repeated acclamations and huzzas; and with alacrity took the oath of fidelity to him, being charmed with his behaviour, and the part he acted in gaining the town, in which he continued for ſome time, being ſtrengthened by all the land-forces and marines that could be ſpared from the fleet, which under Sir Cloudeſley Shovel ſet ſail, having put on board the governor of Barcelona, with about a thouſand men of the garriſon, who were the only people not to liſt in the ſervice of king Charles. The admiral landed theſe at Alicant and Malaga, whence he proceeded to Gibraltar, where he ſtayed three days; and having appointed ſome ſhips to convoy the trade from Liſbon, he himſelf arrived at Spithead: a few days after he came to London, where he was received by the queen and prince with thoſe marks of eſteem which his ſervices deſerved.

The

The Spaniards in the intereſt of king Philip, exerted themſelves for the recovery of Barcelona, while the Engliſh and Dutch uſed every method to retain it. On the 18th of April Sir John Leake and commodore Price, with ſix Dutch ſhips of war, came opportunely to Altea, where Sir George Byng joined him, in order to relieve the place, then cloſely blocked up by a French ſquadron; while a numerous army ſat down before it on the land-ſide. On the 26th the earl of Peterborough went on board the Prince George, taking upon him the command of the fleet as admiral; and next day, by help of a freſh gale, came before the town, where the forces and marines were landed, to the unſpeakable joy of the inhabitants, who expected to be ſtormed that very night. They were next day reviewed by the king, who expreſſed his gratitude to the generals, in terms adequate to the ſenſe of the danger he was in. The French continued the ſiege for two days longer, but,

but, on the 30th of April they raiſed it in great confuſion and precipitation, having firſt ſet fire to their camp and ſtores; but the townſ-people ſoon extinguiſhed the flames, and the fugitives were terribly harraſſed by the volunteers from the city, the Miquelets and peaſants from the mountains ſkirmiſhing till night ſeparated them.

The relief of Barcelona was followed by other advantages: the kingdom of Valentia declared for king Charles, and Carthagena was ſurrendered on the 2d of June to the earl of Peterborough. The city of Alicant was taken by ſtorm, the caſtle ſoon ſurrendered, Yvica ſubmitted to the conqueror, and Majorca was reduced, the inhabitants themſelves obliging the viceroy to capitulate.

The enemy was annoyed this year in many parts; for Sir Stafford Fairborn, vice-admiral of the red, was ſent on an expedition to Rochfort, having with him two ſhips of eighty guns, three of ſeventy, one

one of ſixty, and one of fifty, to be followed by two more.

His inſtructions were to proceed with all poſſible ſecrecy to the mouth of the river Charente, and to uſe his utmoſt endeavours to take and deſtroy ſuch ſhips as the enemy might be fitting out from Rochefort, which commonly lay before the mouth of that river, to take in their guns, ſtores, and proviſions; when he ſhould have done his utmoſt in this attempt, he was to aſſiſt at a council of war, to conſider what further ſervice might be performed againſt the enemy in the Bay, or on the French coaſt or elſewhere; and to endeavour to put in execution what ſhould be agreed on, ſo as to return by the middle of May to Plymouth, in regard there might by that time be occaſion for his ſervices elſewhere.

On the 24th of April he ſet ſail; and after a tedious paſſage, by means of contrary winds, he got off the river Charante, where he made a good diſpoſition for

for burning the enemy's ſhips before Rochelle; but, the winds not favouring, he returned to Plymouth on the 17th of May, with ſome ſmall prizes taken between the iſles of Rhé and Oleron, where they likewiſe took and deſtroyed ten trading veſſels with their boats. Another deſcent was concerted this year (1706) upon the French coaſt, under the conduct of Sir Cloudeſley Shovel, with whom Mr. Vernon then was; and this perhaps would have ſucceeded, had not the Dutch fruſtrated the ſcheme by their delays.

Though the Dutch by their backwardneſs prevented an attempt upon the coaſt of France, yet they could not hinder their proceeding to Alicant, whither Sir Cloudeſley Shovel ſailed from Liſbon January the 7th, 1707; the forces were landed on the 28th, and the fleet returned to the ſame port on the 11th of February.

At this time the Britiſh troops in Spain being in great want of money, clothes, proviſions, and other neceſſaries, Sir George

George Byng ſailed the 30th of March with ſupplies. When he came off Cape Vincent, he had an account of the battle of Almanza, which made him proceed for Tortoſa, taking with him the ſick and wounded at Deuca, Gandia, and Valentia. In this work he was employed almoſt the whole month of April; and from thence ſailing to Barcelona, he was joined by Sir Cloudeſley Shovel on the 20th of May, when an attempt was concerted againſt Toulon, to which city the duke of Savoy and prince Eugene were marching at the head of thirty thouſand men.

The fleet, to favour the operations by land, anchored before Final, on the 5th of June. From Final they ſailed to a place between Antibes and Nice; at the former of which Sir Cloudeſley Shovel had a conference with the duke of Savoy concerning the paſſage of the Var, where the enemy had thrown up entrenchments.

Four Britiſh men of war and one Dutch, under the command of Sir John Norris, attended by about ſix hundred ſeamen and marines in open boats, ſailed into the mouth of the river; and, being advanced within muſket-ſhot of the enemy's works, made ſuch a terrible fire upon them, that their cavalry, and many of their foot, quitted their entrenchments.

Sir Cloudeſley followed Sir John to the place of action; and obſerving the diſorder of the enemy, he commanded him to land with the ſeamen and marines, and flank them in their entrenchments. This ſervice Sir John performed with ſo much conduct, and his men advanced with ſo much valour and reſolution, that the French fled from their works, of which Sir John took poſſeſſion, and opened a way for the duke of Savoy, who paſſed the river about half an hour after, without oppoſition, and marched directly to Toulon.

This

This ſervice done, the fleet ſailed for the iſles of Hieres; and on the 15th of July the army came to Valette before Toulon. They directly began to work on a line which was to extend from Valette as far as the ſea, in order to communicate with the fleet, and thence to receive artillery and proviſions.

The 17th, admiral Shovel, with ſome of the chief officers of the fleet, went to the camp, and had a conference with his royal highneſs and the other general officers, at the head quarters where they dined.

The conference turned upon the ſiege of Toulon; to ſave which, and to prevent their whole fleet from being fired, the French ſunk about twenty of their men of war in the harbour, ten of which were of three decks.

On the 2d of Auguſt the batteries were finiſhed on both ſides, and began to play. The confederate fleet came to an anchor in the road, where the diviſion under admiral

miral Dilkes forced the enemy to abandon a battery of ten guns.

The next day ſome of the ſhips advanced farther into the road, and battered fort St. Lewis with ſuch ſucceſs, that all the guns which defended it were ſilenced.

On the 4th, the French made a vigorous ſally, and forced moſt of the confederates out of the works; which, with an unlucky accident that drove Sir George Byng's own ſhip foul of a Dutch man of war, diſcouraged the beſiegers, and even made prince Eugene declare againſt continuing the operations. The cannon was withdrawn, and the neceſſary diſpoſitions were made to embark the ſick and wounded.

On the 10th, the fleet drew as near the town as poſſible. Five bomb-veſſels, ſupported by the light frigates, and the boats of the men of war, under admiral Dilkes, advanced into the creek of fort St. Lewis; and notwithſtanding the enemy's great fire, bombarded the town and har-

harbour from that day at noon till five next morning. They ſet fire to the great magazine of cordage; quite ruined ſeveral ſtately buildings; and deſtroyed eight men of war, two of ninety, one of eighty ſix, one of ſeventy ſix, one of ſeventy, two of ſixty, and one of fifty four guns: but the enemy brought ſo many guns and mortars againſt thoſe veſſels as made them retire not a little damaged.

That ſame night the confederate army marched from Valette, in five columns, taking the ſame route as they did when they came to Toulon.

The expedition againſt Toulon failing, admiral Shovel withdrew to the coaſt of Italy, in order to perform ſomething that might compenſate their diſappointment at Toulon: but as nothing was to be done there, he ſet ſail for England, which he unfortunately never reached. For on the 22d of October he came into the ſoundings, where he had ninety fathom water in the morning, and in the afternoon brought

brought the fleet to, and lay by with a very freſh gale at S. S. W. the weather being hazy. At ſix at night he made ſail again, and ſtood away under his courſes, E. b. N. believing, as is preſumed, that he had the channel open, and ſaw the light of Scilly. Soon after which, ſeveral of the ſhips made the ſignal of danger, as he himſelf did. Sir George Byng, who was about half a mile to the windward of him, ſaw the breaches of the ſea, and ſoon after the rocks of Scilly above water. On one of which, known by the name of the biſhop and his clerks, the Aſſociation, in which was the admiral, ſtruck; and in leſs than two minutes there was nothing of her to be ſeen. The ſhip of Sir George Byng was providentially ſaved by his own preſence of mind, even when one of the rocks was almoſt under her main-chains. Sir John Norris and lord Durſley with great difficulty diſentangled themſelves from the threatening fate. The St. George, of which his lordſhip had the command,

was

was daſhed on the ſame ridge of rocks with the Aſſociation; and the ſame wave which he ſaw beat out Sir Cloudeſley's lights, ſet his ſhip a-float. The Eagle man of war periſhed with all her crew: the Phœnix was loſt, but her crew were ſaved. In this ſhip was Mr. Vernon, who, in the account ſent to his friends of the diſaſter, magnifies the greatneſs of the providence by which he was ſaved; and from that day forward, he entertained awful thoughts of a future ſtate.

THE LIFE OF Admiral VERNON.

BOOK II.

The procedure of Sir John Norris to the Baltick, where captain Vernon was, with the tranſactions there: articles of the peace of Utrecht; and the death of queen Anne.

THE war ſtill continuing between the allies and France, Mr. Vernon had further opportunities of putting in practice what he had learned in ſo many years campaigns, and under the eye of ſo many great commanders.

The French in the year 1707 had ſome ſucceſs, by taking ſeveral Ruſſia mer-

chant ſhips. A ſquadron of their men of war fell in with a Britiſh fleet of about an hundred and thirty ſail for Liſbon with merchandizes, proviſions and ſtores, and a thouſand horſes, which ſailed from Plymouth on the 9th of October, under convoy of five men of war, The engagement between the fleets was long and obſtinate, and though few of the tranſports were taken, yet three of the men of war, the Cumberland, Cheſter, and Ruby, fell into the hands of the enemy; the Devonſhire of eighty guns was blown up. Mr. Vernon was in the Royal oak of ſeventy ſix guns, which the Achille boarded; but both of the bowſprits being broken, the Britiſh ſhip made off for Kingſale, where ſhe arrived with ſome few veſſels, having only loſt twelve men killed, and twenty four wounded.

The 23d of October 1707 was memorable for the meeting of the firſt Britiſh parliament, which after two adjournments ſat on the 6th of November for the diſ-

patch of buſineſs. The commons voted an addreſs to her majeſty for her gracious ſpeech from the throne; but the lords, inſtead of this, entered immediately upon an examination into the ſtate of the navy, and the late miſmanagements: which on the 29th were taken into particular conſideration in a committee of the whole houſe, where the queen was preſent incognito; a petition, given in by the ſheriffs of the city of London, and ſubſcribed by about two hundred of the moſt eminent merchants of the city, was read; complaining of the great loſſes they had lately ſuſtained at ſea, for want of convoys and cruizers, and craving a ſpeedy remedy.

A very warm debate aroſe upon the ſubject, the reſult of which was to appoint a committee to receive propoſals for encouraging trade and privateers in the Weſt-Indies; which through the weakneſs, or rather the bad diſpoſition of thoſe who had credit with prince George of Denmark, now in the decline of life, were

no way inconſiderable. The other trading towns followed the example of the metropolis, and were ſeverally heard upon the ground of their complaints.

To remedy former diſaſters, and to protect the nation from an invaſion, Sir George Byng was ſent with a fleet to the coaſt of Scotland, where the old chevalier intended to land.

On the 6th of March the French fleet ſailed from the road of Dunkirk, and Sir George getting intelligence of them, he purſued them to the firth of Forth, whence he drove them, and took the Saliſbury man of war, in which were a great number of French, Engliſh, and Iriſh officers; the reſt eſcaped to Dunkirk.

But while Sir George Byng ſcoured the firth of Forth, Sir John Leake and Sir Edward Whitaker traverſed the Mediterranean, in which the latter ſucceeded ſo well, as to reduce the iſland of Minorca.

At the time he was making preparations for attacking Portmahon, he order-

ed captain Butler in the Dunkirk, and captain Fairborn in the Centurion, to go and batter Fornelle, that the tranſports might ſafely ride into the harbour of that name.

They anchored before it the ninth of September, after viſiting Barcelona, Vado, and the coaſt of Sardinia: In a few hours the garriſon, conſiſting of fifty men, ſurrendered priſoners of war.

On the 11th the garriſon of Citadella, conſiſting of an hundred Frenchmen and as many Spaniards, ſurrendered at the ſight of a detachment of our troops and two men of war.

On the 17th Portmahon itſelf was reduced by ſtorm, notwithſtanding the enemy's fire from their forts. They beat a parley on the 18th, and on the 19th poſſeſſion was taken of that important fortreſs; which was a ſenſible ſtroke to the houſe of Bourbon.

The French, in order to retrieve their loſſes and diſappointments in the Mediterranean

terranean and elſewhere, diſpatched M. du Caſſe with a ſquadron, having for its deſtination no leſs than the conqueſt of Jamaica; which fell to Sir Charles Wager's ſhare to protect, who had cruiſed on the coaſt of Hiſpaniola for ſeveral months before.

On the 23d of December he came into Port-Royal, where he conſulted with his officers on the different advices he had received; at the ſame time ſending out ſhips and ſloops for intelligence.

On the 16th of February he ſailed with the Windſor, Expedition, Kingſton, Severn, Aſſiſtance, Hector and Vulture fire-ſhips; and receiving advice that the Spaniſh galleons had ſailed from Carthagena to Portobello, he ſailed for that place.

On the 25th he came to an anchor off the iſle of Pines, where the fleet was ſupplied with wood and water: but being informed that the galleons would not ſail till May, he returned again to Port-

Royal, where he arrived on the 6th of April, and continued to take in proviſions and other neceſſaries. Which being effected, in about eight days, he again ſet ſail for Carthagena, near the mouth of which diſcovering ſeveral veſſels, he chaſed them as far as far as Bocca Chica.

About this time the maſts of the Expedition man of war were damaged by thunder, which however did not hinder the admiral from purſuing his ſcheme of taking the galleons, of whoſe intended voyage to Carthagena he received advice on the 23d of May.

About ten in the morning of the 28th he got ſight of them, and reſolved upon the attack. The Kingſton was ordered to attack the vice-admiral, the Portland to engage the rear-admiral. While the commodore made up to the admiral, which he plied ſo cloſe, that in about an hour an half ſhe blew up, the other ſhips ſeparated in the dark: however, their rear-admiral was chaſed and taken, and

the

the reſt were vigorouſly purſued, one of which was burnt by the enemy, leſt it ſhould fall into the hands of the Engliſh. After this expedition, the commodore returned to Port-Royal with the prizes he had taken.

The new act of parliament, called the cruiſing and convoy act, giving all prizes to the captors, and directing agents to be appointed, being come to Jamaica before the commodore's return, he thought himſelf obliged to comply therewith. His temper was ſweetened by the commiſſion for being rear-admiral of the blue, which was brought over to him by the Jerſey, whereof Mr. Vernon was captain, who arrived in company with the Monmouth and Roebuck on the 24th, at Port-Royal.

Captain Vernon was not long here before he gave a blow to the enemy: for in January he took a Spaniſh ſloop laden with tobacco, and retook from the French ſloops a Guinea ſhip, in which were four hundred Negroes. The Portland took a

French prize near Cape St. Nicholas, and the Roebuck brought in a brigantine bound to Port-François, which was a neſt for French privateers.

After the ſervice of the year was up, admiral Wager ſet ſail for England, and arrived with the Jerſey, on the 20th of November, at St. Helens, leaving the command of the ſhips at Jamaica with captain Tudor Trevor; to whoſe aſſiſtance commodore Littleton was ſent in a ſhort time after.

On the 24th of Auguſt the commodore ſailed with the Jerſey and Weymouth from St. Helens, and landed at Port-Royal in Jamaica on the 28th of November 1710. Some time after, a fleet of ſhips arriving from England, having eſcaped M. du Caſſe's ſquadron the commodore was endeavouring to engage.

On the 15th of July he ſet ſail towards Carthagena for this very purpoſe, and on the 26th arrived on the coaſt. His firſt information was by ſome trading veſſels from

from Madeira; his next by a Carthagena ſloop, in which was found a letter from the governor of that place to the governor of Mexico: but the moſt circumſtantial account was from captain Vernon of the Jerſey, who brought in with him a merchant ſhip belonging to Breſt of thirty guns and an hundred and twenty men; which ſhip had ſailed from Port-Louis in company with M. du Caſſe. She came from trading on the coaſt of Spain, but had put all her money on ſhore at Port-Louis.

Captain Vernon in the Jerſey was next day ſent to the coaſt of New-Spain, where arriving on the 28th of June, he looked into the port of Carthagena, and ſaw twelve ſhips, ſix rigged, and ſix unrigged, among the former of which he believed the vice-admiral of the galleons was; and beſides there were five ſloops in that harbour.

On theſe aſſurances the admiral ſailed, and on the 26th of July he arrived on

[the coaſt of New-Spain, and purſued five ſhips into Bocca Chica the entrance of Carthagena harbour. He ſtood off to ſea that night, and ſtretching in the next morning, chaſed four other ſhips. Between five and ſix, a prize taken by the Saliſbury, captain Robert Harland, came up with him, and engaged the vice-admiral of the galleons: the Saliſbury, captain Francis Hoſier, ſoon did the ſame; and the commodore being juſt ready to fire within piſtol-ſhot, the galleon yielded. She had ſixty braſs guns, and three hundred and twenty five men.

The Jerſey took a merchant ſhip of four hundred tuns and twenty ſix guns, laden chiefly with cocoa and wool; but the veſſel that was chaſed by the Nonſuch eſcaped.

Captain Vernon in the Jerſey was afterwards ſent by the commodore to Port-Royal in Jamaica, where he arrived on the 17th of October, with a fine prize of one hundred tuns, laden chiefly with indigo and ſugar, which he had taken on the

the north ſide of Cuba. The Thetis, a French man of war of forty four guns, was brought in by the Weymouth and Windſor into the ſame port.

That winter captain Vernon in the Jerſey remained at Jamaica, in company with commodore Littleton, by whom he was frequently ſent out for intelligence: and on the 20th of February he run a French ſhip of about twenty guns on ſhore, where ſhe beat to pieces.

The time was now drawing near when the face of affairs in Europe was entirely to change. For France, whoſe fleets fled on all ſides before thoſe of England and Holland, had now recourſe to every art and method for breaking the grand alliance between the Empire, the queen of England, and the States-general.

For this purpoſe no ſcheme was left untried for diſtracting the Britiſh counſels, and for bringing over a party in the Britiſh miniſtry: and while the emiſſaries of France were laying down the mighty ad-

vantages that would accrue to England from a peace with their king, a project was ſet on foot for bringing in the pretender. And though the duke of Marlborough, on the 11th 1711, had forced the French lines, 'without a drop of 'blood,' yet his intereſt and party begun to decline. The earl of Oxford and lord Bolingbroke got the better of him. His grace was diſmiſſed from all his employments, and the duke of Ormond, who was very hearty for bringing about a ſeparate peace, was ſubſtituted in his room.

A ceſſation of arms was proclaimed on the ſame day, both in the French and Britiſh camps: a ſtep to which the after-progreſs of the French arms was much owing. They regained in one campaign what they loſt during the courſe of nine before.

The Britiſh fleets did not much interrupt the trade and commerce of the enemy. One year with another, the admiralty were ſhort of furniſhing half the

number of ſhips of the line which they ought to have done. This deficiency not only obſtructed farther conqueſts on France, but was a great weakening to the Britiſh navy; the ſhips being obliged to continue in greater numbers in the remote ſeas, and at unſeaſonable times of the year, to the great detriment of trade: the ſhips which ſhould have been employed as convoys and cruiſers being abſolutely neceſſary to ſupply their deficiencies; not to mention what uſe might have been made of thoſe in the Weſt-Indies, whence captain Vernon, after a three years ſtay, was recalled.

What tended to make the ſeamen ſick of expeditions was the frequent diſappointments they met with, particularly in the expedition to Quebec in Canada, under the command of Sir Hovenden Walker, eight tranſports having been loſt, with about nine hundred men, including officers, ſoldiers and ſailors. 'Tis true,

the

the men of war eſcaped with the greateſt hardſhip and difficulty.

The efforts of France at laſt brought about the peace of Utrecht, anno 1713; which, among other things, included the following articles: The ſettlement of the crown upon the illuſtrious houſe of Hanover was acknowledged by the French king: The union between France and Spain was prevented: The benefit of the aſſiento trade, and the privelege of ſending a ſhip annually to the Weſt-Indies was granted to the South-ſea company, which had been lately erected: Gibraltar and Pormahon were ceded to Great-Britain: Hudſon's bay and the Streights were yielded, and the damages ſuſtained by the Engliſh trading thither were made good: All rights of the French to St. Chriſtopher's were renounced: Nova Scotia and the city of Annapolis-Royal, with their Dependencies, were left in the poſſeſſion of the Britiſh nation: Such parts as the

French

French poſſeſſed in Newfoundland were yielded; and the harbour of Dunkirk was filled up, and the fortifications, which coſt immenſe ſums, were demoliſhed.

However, things continued in an unſettled ſtate till the death of her majeſty queen Anne, on the 1ſt of Auguſt 1714; which again brought things to the ſame channel as they were in the lifetime of her royal conſort.

THE LIFE OF Admiral VERNON.

BOOK III.

The acceſſion of king George I. to the throne. Proceedings of the fleet in the Baltick. Captain Vernon is choſen member of parliament for Penryn.

THE earl of Dorſet carried the news of the queen's death to Herenhauſen; whence his majeſty king George ſet out on the laſt of Auguſt for England, accompanied by the prince-royal, who now ſways the ſceptre.

He arrived at the Hague on the 5th of September, was congratulated by deputies from the States on his acceſſion to the

the crown, as likewiſe by all the foreign ambaſſadors, in the name of their reſpective maſters.

On the 16th of September, he landed at Greenwich, where he was received with the loudeſt acclamations, and was waited upon by the chief nobility, the generals of the army, the lords of the admiralty, the admirals of the navy, and the captains of the ſhips. Among whom captain Vernon was one, and had the honour to kiſs his majeſty's hand for the firſt time.

That very day the duke of Marlborough was received into favour, and the duke of Ormond was diſmiſs'd from all his employments.

There was a thorough change in the miniſtry; the conſequence of which was, a change of officers both in the army and navy. However, captain Vernon continued in his command, being in high eſteem with Sir Charles Wager, for whom his majeſty had declared a particular regard.

On

On the 18th of September, the king ſet out from Greenwich, and made his public entry into the city of London, through which he paſſed to St. James's, amidſt a numerous crowd of ſpectators, who lined the ſtreets, filled windows, and balconies, and received him with repeated acclamations. Captain Vernon was one of the cavalcade.

The change in the admiralty happened on the 11th of October, when the right honourable the earl of Orford, Sir George Byng, George Doddington, eſq; Sir John Jennings, Sir Charles Turner, Abraham Stanyan, eſq; and George Baillie, were appointed lords of the admiralty; and to each of whom captain Vernon was perſonally known.

On the 20th the king was crowned at Weſtminſter, with the uſual ſolemnities; and on the 29th, which is lord mayor's day, he, with the prince and princeſs of Wales, dined at Guildhall, and appeared very chearful and jocoſe: on the 15th of January,

January, a proclamation was publiſhed for calling a new parliament to meet on the 17th of March, when they met accordingly; and on the firſt of April voted a ſupply for the navy, which was ſent into different ſtations.

On the 18th of May, Sir John Norris, admiral of the blue, was ſent with a ſquadron into the Baltic, where he arrived on the 10th of June, in order to protect the trade of his majeſty's ſubjects againſt the depredations of the Swediſh privateers. And now captain Vernon had an opportunity of being acquainted with the north-eaſtern part of Europe, as he had been with the coaſt upon the Mediterranean and Weſt-Indies, being at that time commander of the Aſſiſtance, a fifty gun ſhip, and in Sir John Norris's own diviſion.

A Dutch ſquadron was ſent into the Baltic at the ſame time, and for the ſame purpoſe. At Cronenburgh it joined the Britiſh ſhips, between which and them there paſſed mutual ſalutes from their great

great guns. The admirals, and ſome of the captains, among whom was captain Vernon, were magnificently entertained at the Daniſh court, from whence they proceeded with a fair wind on the 17th, and conducted the merchant ſhips under them, to Dantzic, Konigſberg, Riga, Revel, and the reſpective ports of their deſtination.

The Swediſh privateers continuing to interrupt the trade of his majeſty's ſubjects, Sir John Norris was ſent again into the Baltic, where he arrived on the 7th of June with a fleet of twenty-one ſhips of the line, having fifty merchant men under convoy. The 13th he went to Frederickſberg, where he had an audience of the king of Denmark; and in obedience to his orders from England, joined the Daniſh and Ruſſian fleets, who were then meditating a deſcent upon Schonen, where the king of Sweden himſelf was preparing every thing neceſſary to fruſtrate their deſign.

That

That monarch, whoſe name was famous for his many victories, and loſſes, was now become remarkable for his obſtinacy: the northern powers were turned againſt him, and more were daily coming in: the king of Pruſſia joined the Ruſſians, Saxons and Danes, and over-ran Pomerania, to the gates of Stralſund; out of which his Swediſh majeſty had eſcaped with difficulty, after a four months ſiege, in which he performed more than ever could enter the heart of a Roman to do. The Hanoverians alſo joined againſt him, and he judging that the Engliſh ſquadron acted in conſequence of this ſtep, meditated nothing but revenge: he cauſed intimate to Sir John Norris, that if he joined the fleets of Ruſſia and Denmark, all the goods of the Britiſh merchants in Sweden ſhould be confiſcated; however, theſe menaces were not to deter the Britiſh admiral, he joined the fleet of the Confederates, and led the van on the day that they ſailed from the road of Copenhagen: the Czar was in the center,

the

the Danes bringing up the rear, while the Dutch convoyed the trading veſſels to their different ports.

The Britiſh fleet ſailed to the Baltic in the two ſucceeding years, and effectually ſecured the freedom of commerce in thoſe parts.

The latter end of the year 1718 was remarkable for the death of the king of Sweden, whoſe kingdom being quite exhauſted of men, money, and proviſions, the queen, who was younger ſiſter to Charles XII. expreſſed a deſire of making peace with all her neighbours, particularly Great Britain.

The Czar of Muſcovy had, upon the death of the king of Sweden, diſcovered a thorough change in the political ſyſtem of Stockholm; for he and Charles XII. had concerted meaſures for uniting their forces together, and even diſtracting the reſt of Europe: and as this change had happened, he endeavoured, by the mediation of forty thouſand plenipotentiaries, what he thought himſelf ſure of, by means

of

of baron Gortz, a few months before: he ravaged Finland, and the northern provinces of Sweden with fire and ſword, and once landed within three leagues of Stockholm: the brutal cruelties commited by the Ruſſians, were ſhocking to humanity, and filled every mouth with clamour againſt them: and perhaps the horrors of war would have ſpread into the ſouthern provinces, had not the Britiſh fleet come timely to the relief of the diſtreſſed nation; for a Britiſh ſquadron, the ſame that had been in the Baltic the year before, joined the Swediſh fleet off of Carlſcrona, and arrived at Stockholm on the 6th of September. Sir John Norris and his officers were received with repeated acclamations by the inhabitants, who had ſo lately been under the moſt direful apprehenſions from the Ruſſian cruelty: the mediation of Great Britain for concluding peace in the north, was readily accepted by the queen of Sweden, to whom lord Carteret had proffered it.

At

At the ſame time, Mr. Berkley was ſent with the ſame meſſage to the Czar of Muſcovy: but the Ruſſian plenipotentiaries at Aland, the place of congreſs, refuſing him a paſſport to Peterſburgh, and ſcrupling to receive lord Carteret's and Sir John Norris's letters, without previous orders from the Czar, he returned; and about the middle of September, the congreſs broke up. All this time the fleet returned near Stockholm, where the officers paid frequent viſits to the nobility, and ſhar'd in all the diverſions of the court. But the winter ſeaſon advancing, Sir John ſailed on the 27th of October from Elſenob, taking with him all the trade that was ready, and arrived the 6th of November at Copenhagen, where after waiting ſix days, he ſet ſail for England: on the 17th the fleet was ſeparated by a ſtorm, which damaged ſome ſhips in their rigging, but moſt of them came ſafe into the river, and on the 29th, Sir John himſelf arrived in London.

This year was remarkable for the expedition of the lord Cobham into Spain, where he took Vigo, after a ſiege of four days, and Ponte Vedra in about as many hours; which being effected, he returned to England with a conſiderable booty, purchaſed at a very moderate expence, having loſt but about thirty of the land forces.

As the flames of war were not extinguiſhed in the north, Sir John Norris ſailed on the 16th of April, with a ſquadron of twenty ſhips of the line, for the Baltic; on the twenty-ſeventh he arrived within a league of Elſeneur; and on the thirtieth had an audience of the king of Denmark at Copenhagen; he afterward conferred with the Daniſh miniſters, in preſence of lord Polworth, the Britiſh ambaſſador at that court: theſe conferences turned upon bringing about a peace between the courts of Copenhagen and Stockholm, to which place he ſailed with the fleet under his command; he was joined at Elſenab

by a Swediſh ſquadron on the twentieth of May, and in four days after by ſeven more of the ſame nation, under the command of admiral Wachtmaſter. Theſe all jointly proceeded to Revel, in queſt of the Ruſſian fleet then commanded by the Czar of Muſcovy in perſon.

All this time lord Carteret was negotiating with the queen of Sweden a treaty of peace between her majeſty and the king of Denmark, in which he was greatly aſſiſted by the prince royal, the queen's conſort, who had diſcovered the greateſt eſteem and affection for his lordſhip: he ſet out for Stockholm in perſon, to inform the king of Denmark of what he had done: on the 29th of June he had his firſt audience at Frederickſburgh, four German miles from Copenhagen, where it was obſerved, that his majeſty never gave any foreign miniſter ſo many inſtances of particular favour and affection. He dined oftner at the king's table than perhaps any other miniſter ever did in ſo

ſhort a time; and in teſtimony of his gratitude and intire ſatisfaction for his aſſiduity in concluding the peace, he made a preſent to his lordſhip of a ſword from his ſide, richly adorned with diamonds, and valued at four thouſand eight hundred eighty-eight pounds, beſides a fine ſet of coach horſes of a particular breed, called Moors, being of a mouſe colour, with very long black tails and manes, eſteemed of a great value. This being over, his lordſhip returned to London, leaving the reſt to Mr. Finch, the Britiſh ambaſſador at Stockholm, and to Sir John Norris, who, on the 8th of September, returned with the ſquadron under his command to Stockholm, where he had the honour not only to dine with the new king of Sweden, but likewiſe to entertain his majeſty and the queen at dinner on board his own ſhip, where ſome of the richeſt plate was provided for that very purpoſe.

Many perſons who were at Stockholm at the time, have declared they never ſaw

a more agreeable appearance, than when the king and queen of Sweden ſet out in a barge, attended by a vaſt concourſe of nobility and gentry of both ſexes: there were above three hundred barges to adorn the cavalcade; they all put off at the ſame time, and mov'd with a ſlow motion to the ſhips, where each had an invitation to dine: the barge, in which ſat the king and queen, was richly ornamented by ſtreamers and pennants; it was of the Venetian taſte, and built in the ſhape of a ſwan, eight rowers all in ruffled ſhirts and black caps, with a black ribband flying at the top of each, plied the oars, and row'd the veſſel to the admiral's ſhip, which only fired five guns, it having been judged impolite to fire more, when the queen was near. After dinner there was a ball, at which the queen herſelf danced, as did her royal conſort, and ſeveral of the nobility: the admiral, and officers, had all the honour to kiſs their majeſty's hands, and ſome received preſents feom them.

This

This being over, he ſet ſail in a few days from Stockholm, and, on the 20th of November, arrived at Orfordneſs, after ſending four of his men of war to convoy his majeſty king George from Helvoet-ſluys, where he arrived from Hanover.

During the winter, 1720, Mr. Finch was employing his utmoſt endeavours for reconciling the courts of Peterſburgh and Stockholm; and in the ſpring his arguments were enforced by the arrival of a Britiſh ſquadron of twenty-one ſhips of the line, under Sir John Norris in the Baltic; on the twenty-eighth he arrived in the road of Copenhagen, on the thirty, paſſed the Gromds, and the ſecond of May was joined at Hans by ſeven Swediſh men of war. And being afterward joined by more of the ſame nation, he ſailed for Stockholm, where, on the 2d of September, the ſon of count Lilanſtadt, brought the treaty of peace between the king of Sweden and the Czar, ſigned at Nuſtadt, by the plenipotentiaries, on the 31ſt of

Auguſt. This being ended, Sir John returned with the fleet to the Nore, where he landed on the 30th of October.

A ſquadron was this year fitted out for a ſecret expedition, under Sir Charles Wager, rather to terrify, than to annoy; and ſo good an effect was the reſult of it, that the king of Portugal releaſed two Britiſh gentlemen, meſſieurs Wingfield and Roberts, whoſe goods had been ſeized, and they themſelves condemned to death, were releaſed: they were charged with exporting the gold coin, a practice very common among them; and without which our trade with Portugal could not be carried on; one ſhip's loading of Engliſh wool manufactures being more in value than ſix returns in wine. But the king of Portugal pardoning the gentlemen, and winking at the export of gold, the deſign was laid aſide.

The time was now approaching, when Mr. Vernon was to move in an higher ſphere; for in the year 1722, he made his election

election for Dunwich in Suffolk, and for Penryn in Cornwall; he waved his right to the former, preferring the latter, as being the borough which his father, ſecretary James Vernon, eſq; had repreſented in the year 1695, and 1698, in 1705, and the memorable year 1707, when the firſt Britiſh parliament met at Weſtminſter; he alſo repreſented Penryn, till the time that the duke of Marlborough's party began to loſe ground, anno 1710.

The following years afford but few naval tranſactions, farther than ſome piracies committed by the Spaniſh guarda coſtas: we ſhall paſs over to the memorable year 1726, in which Great Britain acted like herſelf, and in which captain Vernon, now advanced to the command of the Grafton, of ſeventy guns, had no inconſiderable ſhare.

A ſcheme being formed to bring in the pretender, by the united force of the two diſtant courts of Peterſburgh and Madrid, three fleets were ordered to ſea; one

of theſe, deſigned for the Baltic, was put under the command of Sir Charles Wager, vice-admiral of the red; and Sir George Walton, vice-admiral of the blue; another commanded by Sir John Jennings, was ſent into the Mediterranean, and admiral Hoſier, ſailed with a third for the Weſt-Indies, the better to defeat the ſchemes of the enemy. In the firſt fleet was captain Vernon; it conſiſted of thirty-one ſhips of the line, from eighty to fifty guns, one of twenty, and two fire-ſhips: it weighed anchor from the Nore, on the 17th of April, in the morning, and in five days arrived in the road of Copenhagen, where the rendezvous was appointed. That evening Sir Charles ſent his compliments to the great chancellor, and deſired to know when he might wait on his Daniſh majeſty with the king's letter; the twenty-fifth was appointed, and then Sir Charles delivered the letter at Frederickſburgh, into the king's own hand Next day, the prince royal, and ſeveral of the Daniſh nobility

bility dined on board the admiral's ſhip, and was ſaluted both at coming and going, by every ſhip in the fleet, and in ſuch a manner as did honour to the Britiſh nation, and gave intire ſatisfaction to the prince.

On the 2d of May the fleet ſailed from Copenhagen, and on the ſixth came to an anchor at Elſenob, near to Stockholm: next day Mr. Poyntz, the Britiſh envoy extraordinary, and Mr. Jackſon, the Britiſh reſident, went on board the admiral, and the day following they all went up to the city; and on the tenth Sir Charles had an audience of the king of Sweden, in the preſence of ſeveral ſenators, foreign ambaſſadors, and general officers: he delivered a letter from the king his maſter, to his Swediſh majeſty, with whom, and with the queen, he and Mr. Poyntz had the honour to dine.

A formidable ſquadron of Britiſh ſhips, under ſo experienced a commander as Sir Charles, could not be diſagreeable either to the Danes or the Swedes, ſince the

power of Ruſſia, raiſed almoſt from contempt, was now look'd upon with a jealous eye by the greateſt potentates of Europe, but particularly by the Swedes, whoſe deep wounds they had received from the Ruſſians, were but drying up; and it is not doubted, but the Muſcovite would have begun a freſh quarrel with Sweden, under pretence of bringing in the duke of Holſtein, and overturning the ſettlement ſo lately made, had not the Britiſh ſquadron ſeaſonably appeared.

On the twenty-fifth the fleet ſailed for Revel, near which it anchored upon the twenty-ninth, and in two days after ſailed into the Bay, as did ſix Daniſh men of war, a frigate, and a victualling flyboat: the better to enforce the contents of the letter which his majeſty had wrote to the Czarina, and which were in ſubſtance, to let her know, "that her great prepara-"tions for war both by ſea and land, in "time of peace, were the motive of his "ſending ſo powerful a fleet into thoſe "ſeas,

" ſeas, to block up her majeſty's fleets in " their harbours, and obviate any dan- " ger that might enſue therefrom; that he " was acquainted with, and ſurprized at " the meaſures which were taking at her " court, in favour of the pretender to his " crown, with the encouragement that " was given to his adherents."

This letter, ſupported by ſo ſtrong a fleet, had all imaginable ſucceſs; for the court of Peterſburgh, in conſternation, directed, that the men of war which were equipped at Revel, ſhould be unrigged, and the ammunition and proviſions on board them landed; all which was obeyed: ſo that Sir Charles, after being fully ſatisfied that nothing was to be feared from Ruſſia, whoſe fleets and gallies were laid up, he ſailed on the 20th of September from Revel, and on the 9th of October arrived in the road of Copenhagen, thereby eſcaping a terrible ſtorm which happened the night following. Next day, in compaay with lord Glenorchy, he dined

with the king and queen of Denmark, as did ſeveral of the commanders, among whom was captain Vernon.

On the 19th he ſailed from Copenhagena, and on the 1ſt of November the ſquadron came to an anchor off the Gunfleet below the Nore. In two days after he waited on his majeſty at Kenſington, and was moſt graciouſly received.

But the court of Peterſburg was not only frightened out of her deſigns, but likewiſe the court of Spain; for Sir John Jennings and rear-admiral Hopſon made ſuch an impreſſion, that the Spaniards were obliged to lay aſide their deſigns, which being all required of them, the admirals, after a paſſage of twenty four days, arrived at Spithead from Liſbon on the 22d of October.

The expedition to the Weſt-Indies was not ſo ſucceſsful, though a wound in thoſe parts, is the moſt ſenſible Spain can receive; for though admiral Hoſier blocked up Puerto-Bello, yet he was obliged

liged by the ſickneſs of his men to ſail for Jamaica, whence, after victualling, he ſailed with nine men of war for Carthagena, where the Spaniſh galleons and their convoys ſtill remained.

On the 8th of Auguſt orders came from Spain to make repriſals on the ſhips and effects of the Engliſh; which was done accordingly, both at the Havannah and at La Vera-Cruz, where the prince Frederick, a frigate, and four packet-boats were ſeized, with all the effects belonging to the Engliſh South-ſea company: and though the reſtoration of them was demanded by admiral Hoſier, who ſailed with four men of war to the Havannah, yet the ſame was refuſed.

This ſucceſs of the Spaniards encouraged them to entertain thoughts of regaining Gibraltar, and to force the pretender upon England, in both of which ſchemes they were diſappointed.

The year 1727 was remarkable for the ſiege of Gibraltar, to whoſe relief Sir Charles

Charles Wager was ſent with a formidable ſquadron, which was of conſiderable ſervice; for they plied the workmen on both ſides the iſthmus with their ordnance ſo vigorouſly, that they were driven from the trenches.

As the Britiſh fleet remained maſters atſea, and Gibraltar was relieved from Liſbon, Portmahon, and every quarter, it was needleſs for the Spaniards to perſiſt in ſo chimerical a project. Their ſhips were every where ſeized; the Spaniards were wounded in their vitals, ſo that it was abſolutely neceſſary for them to hearken to preliminaries of peace, which were ſigned at Madrid the 7th of June that year. Theſe being notified to the earl of Portmore the governor of the place, a ceſſation of arms was agreed upon between his lordſhip and the Spaniſh general Conde las Torres.

But the court of London was not only vigilant over the Spaniards, but over the Muſcovites alſo. Sir John Norris was

ſent

ſent into the Baltick with a ſquadron of twenty ſhips of the line, from eighty to fifty guns, one of twenty guns, and three fire-ſhips.

The deſign of ſending this fleet, in the number of which was the Grafton, captain Vernon, was the ſame as in the preceding year; their proceedings were alike, and the ſame ſucceſs crowned the expedition. The Ruſſians put a ſtop to the equipment of their fleet, and gave over their terrible menaces againſt the kingdom of Sweden: and to palliate things, the czarina renewed her declaration of the twenty firſt of June of the foregoing year, for the ſecurity and encouragement of the Britiſh merchants trading in and to the Ruſſian dominions.

However, the uneaſineſs which her majeſty contracted on account of the diſtractions which followed, together with her ill ſtate of health before, cut the thread of a life that had been ſingular

from

from the cradle to the grave; for ſhe died in a few days after.

His majeſty king George died alſo this year at Oſnaburgh, on the 11th of June, in the 67th year of his age. He was a prince endowed with all the bravery that ever entered the heart of an hero, and poſſeſſed all the wiſdom and ſkill that adorn a ſtateſman. He came with king John Sobieſki to raiſe the ſiege of Vienna, which was ſoon effected by their means: when commanding the army of the Empire, he ſacrificed the laurels he might have acquired in the upper Rhine, by ſparing twenty four thouſand men to reinforce the allies, before the battle of Ramillies, which ended ſo glorioufly for them. He underſtood the genius, the intereſt, and temper of all the courts of Europe. He hated the pride of majeſty, and could on a throne taſte the pleaſures of friendſhip and of a ſingle life. He was beloved and admired by his Britiſh ſubjects, and, in a manner, adored by thoſe of his electoral dominions.

He

He knew well how to govern others, and his own paſſions too: and, to crown all, he left a ſon endowed with his virtues, and now after a reign of thirty years, adorning the robes he wears.

The conſequence of the king's death was the calling a new parliament, of whoſe members captain Vernon was one, being choſen with but little oppoſition for the borough of Penryn.

This ſtep to higher preferment was not to divert him from venturing his life again in the ſervice of his country, and ſoon was there an occaſion for him ſo to do. As the Spaniards refuſed to raiſe the ſiege of Gibraltar, it was abſolutely neceſſary to continue the fleet there, and to reinforce it from time to time, to bring things ſooner to a concluſion.

Sir Charles Wager had been twice reinforced from England, during the ſummer ſeaſon; and on the 13th of October he was joined by the Captain, the Monmouth,

mouth, the Bedford, and the Grafton, of which captain Vernon ſtill retained the command: ſo that his firſt ſquadron, with the reinforcements, compoſed a fleet of twenty five ſhips of the line.

Intelligence being received, that ſome Spaniſh ſhips were expected from the Weſt-Indies, Sir George Walton was ſent with a ſquadron to cruize off Cape St. Vincent; while Sir Charles himſelf, who had gone to ſea to obſerve the motions of the Spaniſh fleet, returned to Gibraltar on the 2d of November, after an abſence of forty three days, as did Sir George Walton's diviſion in a month afterward: and perhaps they would have continued there, had not the Roſe ſhip of war come in on the 13th with a letter from the duke of Newcaſtle, importing that the Spaniſh galleons were on their way home.

On which the Torbay, Burford, Revenge, Orford, Prince Frederick, Canterbury, Weymouth, Preſton, Pool, and Gibraltar were appointed to cruize off Cape

Cape St. Vincent; the Monmouth, Stirling caſtle, Suffolk, Royal oak, Grafton, Kingſton, Advice, and Swallow, off Cape Spartel; the Captain, Yarmouth, Bedford, Kent, York, Wincheſter, and Aſſiſtance, to cruiſe off Cape Finiſterre: the two former were ordered back to Gibraltar, but the latter was appointed to proceed to Spithead.

About this time the emperor of Morocco received a letter from the king of England, as alſo a preſent of fifty barrels of powder, which the Poole carried to Tetuan. Theſe made ſo good an impreſſion upon the Moor, that he became a friend to the Engliſh ever after; which not a little contributed towards bringing about a reconciliation between Great Britain and Spain, to which the latter was ſo extremely averſe, as to trump up new difficulties every day; alledging that the court of Great Britain had uſurped the iſland of Providence, and built a fort on the coaſt of Florida, and forcibly ſeiz-

ed

ed a ſettlement in the bay of Campeachy. Under this pretext they built ſeveral new men of war, took and confiſcated ſeveral merchant veſſels, after the time ſettled by the preliminaries.

The reconciliation being effected, Sir Charles Wager ſailed from Gibraltar-bay on the 16th of March, and arrived at Spithead on the 9th of April.

In four days after, he and lord Torrington, with the earl of Portmore, waited on the king at St. James's, in his majeſty's own cloſet, and met with a moſt gracious reception.

On the 28th captain Stewart arrived at Spithead with five more ſhips, having ſent away the Revenge, the Royal-oak, the Grafton captain Vernon, the Kingſton, and Aſſiſtance for Ireland, with directions as ſoon as they landed, to advance to Spithead.

No ſooner had the ſeamen landed than they were received with the loudeſt acclamations by the grateful populace, who of-

offered ſmall preſents to the common ſailors as they paſſed along. Joy and ſatisfaction appeared in every countenance, and the officers of the navy, among whom was captain Vernon, received the thanks of the king.

Being come to England, he took his ſeat in the houſe of commons, which had met on the 23d of January 1728: and as very warm debates had happened concerning the repeated advices of a continued ſeries of depredations committed by the Spaniards and Sallee rovers on our trading veſſels in the Weſt-Indies, he always ſpoke on that ſide of the argument which was for executing immediate vengeance upon tranſgreſſors, before they were hardened in their cruelty, and were enriched by frequent plunder and barbarity. And though by the eloquence of Sir Robert Walpole, the maſter of the Rolls, Sir William Younge, and Henry Pelham eſq; the vengeance due was deferred; yet by the perſuaſive arguments of Mr. Pitt, the

pre-

prevailing reaſoning of Mr. Pultney, afterward earl of Bath, and the honeſt declarations of captain Vernon and other ſea officers, with the declarations of many who had ſuffered the moſt unheard-of cruelties, the houſe came to the following reſolutions.

That from the peace of Utrecht 1713, to the 14th of March 1729, the Britiſh trade and navigation to and from the ſeveral colonies in America, had been greatly interrupted by the continual depredation of the Spaniards, who had ſeized very valuable effects, and unjuſtly taken and made prize of great numbers of Britiſh ſhips and veſſels in thoſe parts, to the great loſs and damage of many of the ſubjects of the kingdom, and in manifeſt violation of the treaties ſubſiſting between the two crowns.

On all which they preſented an humble addreſs to his majeſty, that he would be graciouſly pleaſed to uſe his beſt endeavours to prevent ſuch abuſes for the future. They

They waited upon the king with the addreſs, and received a moſt gracious anſwer. He ordered thirty three ſhips of war, twenty ſeven of which were of the line, to be equipped immediately. It rendezvouſed at Spithead, and was there joined by a ſquadron of fourteen Dutch men of war.

The united ſquadrons were to have proceeded, without loſs of time, to Jamaica, had not the honourable Morgan Vane eſq; arrived expreſs from Madrid, with the treaty of peace ſigned and concluded by that court.

On receiving the news, the Dutch admiral Somerſdylke ſeparated from the Britiſh ſquadron, the one ſailing for Holland, and the other preparing to ſail into port, in order to be laid up.

The impreſſion made upon the court of Spain by ſo formidable a ſquadron, though no nearer them than Spithead, drew the pens of the ingenious. Several excellent epigrams were written upon the

the ſubject, among which was the following:

What need the Britiſh fleet to leave the ſhore,
Or make in diſtant climes her thunders roar,
She's arm'd, ſhe's join'd, prepar'd to plough the main;
Sure that's enough to humble haughty Spain.
Thus when Jove's bird does but for flight prepare,
Th'affrighted doves ſtraight to their home repair *.

The court of Spain appeared willing to give the Britiſh nation inſtances of their juſtice, and to demonſtrate that the depredations committed were nowiſe au-

* *E portu non eſt ut ſolvat claſſis; Iberis*
Inſtructæ & junctæ fama futura ſat eſt:
Sic aquilam ſimul ac pennas extendere conſtat,
Continuo imbellis tecta columba petit.

thorized

thoriſed by them. A new gorvenor was ſent from Cadiz to St. Jago de Cuba, with orders to enquire into the abuſes complained of: and as the former governor appeared to be the guilty perſon, ſo by a warrant from the other he was laid in irons; and a declaration was iſſued out, for the Spaniſh traders and merchants to live in the ſtricteſt amity with thoſe of the Britiſh nation and colonies.

This proceeding of the governor raiſed a ſort of joy in the breaſt of the fair trader; but indeed the ſame was ſhort-liv'd, for the common people among the Spaniards continued their depredations in oppoſition to the moſt poſitive orders and inſtructions from their own court.

It may not be improper to obſerve, that the Britiſh navy at this time conſiſted of ſeven firſt rates, thirteen ſecond rates, forty third rates, ſixty four fourth rates, twenty ſix fifth rates, twenty nine ſixth rates, three fire-ſhips, three bomb-veſ-

ſels, one ſtore-ſhip, thirteen ſloops, ſeven yachts, eleven hoys, with ſmacks and other ſmall craft, having all their full compliment both of men and of guns.

Such was the condition of the navy in the year 1730, and ſo great was the impreſſion it made, that the king of Spain ſigned an act of approbation to be accepted of in lieu of his formal acceſſion to the treaty of Vienna. In conſequence of which a fine ſquadron of men of war was ordered to the Mediterranean to aſſiſt in procuring a ſettlement for Don Carlos in Italy.

On the 14th of July Sir Charles Wager ſailed from Spithead, with a ſquadron of twenty four men of war. They arrived off Cape St. Vincent on the 30th, and on the 1ſt of Auguſt ſailed into the bay of Cadiz.

From Port St. Mary he ſet out by land on the 5th, and next morning arrived at Seville; and the day after had an audience of the king and queen, by whom he

was moſt graciouſly received. He was accompanied by Mr. Keene the Britiſh ambaſſador, and attended by ſeveral gentlemen from on board the ſquadron, by all the Britiſh merchants and other gentlemen of that nation reſiding at Seville, was regaled and careſſed by the whole court, and was viſited by moſt of the grandees.

M. de Patinho and Mr. Keene followed him to Port St. Marys, and in company with the Spaniſh admiral the marquis de Mari, went on board the Namur and dined with him. A few days after Sir Charles returned the compliment, and dined on board the Galicia.

This being over, the combined fleet ſailed on the 17th for Gibraltar, and by the way of Barcelona, they arrived at Leghorn on the 15th of September.

The two fleets made ſuch an impreſſion, that the duke of Tuſcany received Spaniſh garriſons into Leghorn, Piſa, and other places of that duchy. And now

every thing being done that was intended, Sir Charles weighed anchor from Leghorn on the 26th of November, and arrived at St. Helens after a paſſage of fourteen days.

Tho' the aſſiſtance given by the Britiſh fleet in conducting the Spaniſh troops into Italy, brought the court of Spain into a good humour, yet it had but little weight with the maſters of the guarda-coſtas in the iſlands of Cuba, Hiſpaniola, and other places of the Weſt-Indies. Complaints of their depredations were as frequent as ever.

Mr. Keene, by direction from the Britiſh miniſtry, gave in a memorial, complaining of them to the court of Madrid; and obtained a very peremptory order from his catholic majeſty, charging his ſubjects to deſiſt from ſuch proceedings. Yet as thoſe traders were excepted from the benefit of the ſchedule, who were concerned in any illicit commerce, (without determining what was to be deemed illicit, what not) a door was left open for

for them to continue their plunderings, which brought on a war, wherein captain Vernon made ſo conſiderable a figure, and by which his name was ſounded through all the parts of the known world.

THE LIFE OF Admiral VERNON.

BOOK IV.

The fleet ſails from England; the taking of Porto-Bello; the expedition to Carthagena; and the return of the fleet.

THE court of London had, by the peace of Utrecht, obtained liberty to ſend an aſſiento ſhip annually to the Weſt-Indies; and the private men on board frequently carried over ſuch things as were contraband. Complaints were frequently made, and the enemies of Britain, envious of her welfare, and of the tranquillity of Spain, did by

by every art blow the coal of diſſention, which at laſt kindled into an open war between the two powers.

In every commercial ſtate ſome people carry on illicit goods, to the prejudice of the fair trader. The kingdoms of Great-Britain and Spain are over-run with that falſe ſet of men, and the Weſt-Indies are not exempted, for they are to be found in the Leeward iſlands, particularly in Cuba and Hiſpaniola.

The Engliſh merchants had liberty from the court of Madrid, to ſupply the Spaniſh colonies with Negroes, purchaſed in Guinea, and other parts of Africa. This Negro traffic, which forces the huſband from the arms of his wife, the wife from the arms of her huſband, and both from their parents and friends, cannot be expected to proceed with all due regard to juſtice; under different pretexts, this branch of trade, like others, was abuſed: they were to pay thirty-three piaſters to the Spaniſh governor of the

place, where they ſold their ſlaves, for every one that was diſpoſed of. This trade was of great advantage to the South-ſea company, who by treaty were to furniſh the colonies with four thouſand eight hundred Negroes, had obtained the privilege of ſelling the eight hundred without any duty: but the greateſt advantage reaped by the Engliſh, preferably to other nations, was the permiſſion granted in 1716, of ſending a ſhip annually to Porto-bello.

This veſſel, which was to be of no more than five hundred tons, was, in 1717, by agreement, raiſed to eight hundred and fifty, though in reality, and by abuſe, to a thouſand, which could carry two millions weight of goods; theſe were the leaſt part of that commerce; a pinnace attended the veſſel to carry proviſions to it, and, according to ſome, was continually going backward and forward, took in loads of goods in the Britiſh colonies, and conveyed to the veſſel,

which

which by this, thro' conſtant ſupply, anſwered the end of a whole fleet: beſides, other veſſels frequently carried goods to the company's ſhip, from whence they returned to America, with ſuch commodities as the inhabitants wanted.

The Spaniſh governors treated the Britiſh traders with ſeverity, not duly conſidering, that the encouragement given by ſmugglers among themſelves, was the cauſe of what was complained of: the ſmugglers were ſo faithful to each other, as to agree upon ſignals, which they perfectly well knew; ſometimes the innocent and guilty ſuffered alike; ſums lawfully due to the former were detained, becauſe of unlawful gain made by the latter: and thus the Spaniſh colonies were abuſed by the Engliſh, ruined by their own ſmugglers, and cheated out of their ſubſtance by the governors among themſelves.

M. de Voltaire, treating of this ſubject, ſeems to deviate from his uſual politeneſs:

" A great many Engliſh," ſays he, " be-
" came pirates with impunity; on the
" coaſt of Florida they met with ſome
" Spaniards, who were fiſhing for ſome
" galleons that had been ſhipwreck'd, and
" of whom they had recovered four hun-
" dred thouſand piaſtres: the Engliſh
" killed part of the crew, and ſeized all the
" money: the Spaniards demanded ſatis-
" faction for theſe outrages of the Engliſh
" governors in thoſe quarters; but the
" Engliſh freebooters, when they took a
" Spaniſh veſſel, uſed to ſink it, with all
" the crew, after they had gutted it, that
" there might remain no proof of their
" villainy: at other times they ſold thoſe
" Spaniards in their own colonies; and
" when theſe wretches demanded juſtice
" of the Engliſh governor, thoſe who
" had ſold them, got off, by pretending,
" that from their ſwarthy complexion,
" they had taken them for Negroes: the
" pirates underſtood one another, and
" divided the ſpoils with the judges,

" and

" and then ſaid, that they had been tried " by their peers."

" The Spaniſh guarda coſtas, (con- " tinues he) revenged themſelves fre- " quently of theſe cruel hoſtilities; they " took a great many veſſels, and uſed the " crews extremely ill." They were under the hatches, and laid in irons, carried into the Havannah, and other parts, naked as they were born, and there confined to a dungeon, out of which hardſhips, by the humanity of the natives, they were partly relieved.

In the mean time negotiations were ſet on foot both at London and Madrid, for terminating the differencs in America: by the convention of Pardo, of the 14th of January, 1739, the court of Spain, upon balancing accompts with the South-ſea company, engaged to pay them ninety thouſand pounds in four months, reſerving to herſelf a power of making a deduction of what the company might be indebted to the Spaniards. This became

the ſubject of a freſh quarrel; and the accompts of private merchants, produced a war, wherein both nations expended a thouſand times more than the demand of either.

During theſe tranſactions, one Jenkins, the captain of a veſſel which had been taken, preſented himſelf before the houſe of commons, in 1739, with his noſe ſplit, and wanting his ears, that had been cut off: he appeared to be a plain open man, and aſſerted, that he had carried on no contraband trade, but was taken on the American coaſt by a Spaniſh guarda coſta, whoſe commander ſeized his ſhip, laid the crew in irons, and had left him theſe mangling tokens. "Gentlemen, (ſaid he) "after mangling me in this "manner, they threatened to put me to "death; I expected it, and recommended "my ſoul to God, but the revenge of my "cauſe to my country." Theſe words, pronounced with a natural emphaſis, raiſed pity in the whole aſſembly; the citizens

citizens of London crowded to ſee Jenkins, and loudly demanded a war.

The houſe of commons was greatly divided in their opinions. Sir Robert Walpole and his party were deſirous to reconcile matters; while the oppoſite party, by their harangues inflamed the minds of the people: among thoſe who ſpoke upon the ſubject, was Mr. Vernon, and tho' he had not that flow of eloquence ſo neceſſary to diſtinguiſh one in the parliament of Great Britain; yet the honeſty and uprightneſs of his heart made up that want; he knew the Weſt-Indies extremely well, and ſhew'd to the houſe where Spain might be moſt ſenſibly affected; it was the general opinion of the nation, that a war with Spain would be advantageous to Great Britain; but now it is found, that ſuch a war is moſt hurtful to trade and commerce in general, and to many rich and opulent cities in particular; for the merchants keep up ſo cloſe a correſpondence, even in time of war, that the Engliſh have been conſtantly

conſtantly intereſted in the Spaniſh trade, even while they were arming for the deſtruction of that monarchy, ſo that when their privateers took a prize, they really plundered their own countrymen.

Never was more eloquence diſplayed, than in the ſpeeches made at that time in both houſes of parliament, nay, I queſtion, if the ſtudied harangues pronounced at Athens and at Rome, upon almoſt ſimilar occaſions, are ſuperior to the extemporaneous diſcourſes of Sir William Wyndham, lord Carteret, Sir Robert Walpole, the earl of Cheſterfield, the duke of Argyle, Mr. Pitt, Mr. Pultney, ſince earl of Bath, and Sir William Young. Theſe diſcourſes, equal to the elaborate panegyric of Iſocrates, which he was fifteen years in compoſing, were but the natural effect of that liberty which the Engliſh nation has been hitherto careful to maintain. It is true, the ſpirit of party runs thro' them all, and the real ſtate of things is generally diſguiſed, for while the mini-

miniſterial party repreſent the government in a flouriſhing condition, the patriots affirm, that the nation is ruined and undone, "Where are thoſe days," (cried a member in the houſe) when a miniſter declared, that no power in Europe ſhould fire a ſingle cannon(without leave firſt obtained from England? This happened in the reign of queen Elizabeth, and while Oliver Cromwell was protector.

At length, the voice of the nation prevailed, and a run of addreſſes at laſt determined the king; letters of repriſals were delivered out to merchants and to privateers, and war was declared againſt Spain.*

At firſt, the ſea was the theatre of action between the two nations, in which the privateers on both ſides began to ſeize the merchant-ſhips both in Europe and America, mutually deſtroying the very commerce for which they were fighting; and in a ſhort time after proceeded to greater

* October 23, 1739.

hoſtili-

hoſtilities, both ſides being intent to wreck that vengeance due only to a neſt of ſmugglers upon each other: and now the torrent of war, which had been reſtrained within the fences of policy and conſideration, covered Europe and America, the diſpute between the courts of Britain and Madrid, was how they ſhould moſt ſenſibly hurt one another.

The Britiſh miniſtry held a conference with the lords of the admiralty, to which the ſeveral captains, who had ſerved in the navy, were invited. In this numerous meeting was Mr. Vernon, who began at this time to be taken more notice of than hitherto, and even to be regarded by Sir Robert Walpole himſelf.

Tho' that miniſter adopted the ſalutary maxim, that a kingdom in peace is in many degrees happier than when engaged in the moſt ſucceſsful war; yet he now reſolved to indulge the multitude, and let the nation have their way. He propoſed what method was moſt likely to annoy

Spain

Spain in the moſt ſenſible part: ſome remembring the expedition to Vigo, propoſed a ſecond attack upon that place, and to burn the Spaniſh veſſels in Cadiz, and the other ports of the kingdom: every one gave his opinion in the matter as ſeemed moſt feaſible to him. Mr. Vernon, notwithſtanding he had been neglected, merely through his oppoſition to the miniſterial influence in the houſe of commons; and that he had no proſpect of gaining their favour, ſpoke with all the coolneſs and deliberation that an honeſt and upright heart could ſuggeſt: he told the aſſembly, that, "though he look'd "upon a war with Spain as hurtful to the "nation in general, and to the trade of "the city of London in particular, yea, "to the mercantile part of the whole "kingdom, yet now that they were to "conſider of the manner of affecting "Spain in the moſt ſenſible part, he "could not be ſo far wanting in his du-"ty to his king, his country, and to his

"own

" own conſcience, as not to ſpeak the
" ſentiments of his heart upon ſo impor-
" tant a ſubject," " I, continued he, have
" had an opportunity of knowing Old
" Spain ſince the year 1702, and New
" Spain ſince the year 1711: happy had it
" been for the inhabitants of the former,
" that they had never been acquainted
" with the territory of the latter; for
" there be many mines in Old Spain un-
" touched, notwithſtanding what is ſaid
" of their being exhauſted by the Romans
" and Carthagenians, by the Goths, and
" the Moors; trained up in this prepoſte-
" rous opinion, the Spaniards neglect im-
" proving their country at home, and
" ſeek for riches in the new world, they
" dig deep into the bowels of their new
" ſettlements in queſt of riches, which
" laſt are their only ſupport; deſtroy
" their ſettlements in America, and Spain
" falls of courſe; their prieſts, and nume-
" rous ſeminaries of monks and nuns,
" theſe trumpeters of a gloomy religion,

" will

" will deſtroy what their own idleneſs,
" and want of induſtry, may caſually
" have ſpared; wherefore, my opinion is,
" that a ſtrong ſquadron be ſent into the
" Weſt-Indies, to diſtreſs the enemy in
" their very vitals, to deſtroy their mines,
" to ſeize upon their treaſures, to take their
" ſhips, and to ruin their ſettlements;
" let them be attacked in as many places as
" poſſible at one and the ſame time, let us
" even extend our endeavours to the very
" Antipodes of Madrid; for I know the
" Spaniards trade there." He then gave a deſcription of the Iſtmus of Darien, of Portobello, and of Carthagena, the very center of the Spaniſh treaſures; and concluded with ſaying, " that if once Porto-
" bello and Carthagena were taken, then
" all will be loſt to them."

This ſpeech was received by the whole with repeated approbation, as it came from the mouth of a brave honeſt man, and no way embelliſhed with theſe flowers

of

of rhetoric which carry perſuaſion, tho' enforcing a bad cauſe.

The iſſue of the conference was laid before the king and privy-council, who ſaw ſoon into the extent and advantage of what Mr. Vernon had propoſed, and a reſolution was taken to employ him in the ſervice.

This reſolution was taken without his being any way privy to it; for he had neither applied by himſelf, nor yet had he employed his friends: a conſciouſneſs of his merit, determined Sir Robert Walpole, and a conviction of the truth of what he had ſaid, prevailed on the lords of the admiralty.

He was at Chatham in bed with his lady when the courier arrived with the news, about two o'clock in the morning; and being appriſed, that diſpatches had come to him from London, of the laſt importance, he immediately aroſe, and judging that theſe might be from his brother, commiſſioner Vernon, a very

very

amiable and worthy gentleman, he aſked haſtily, "what news from my bro-"ther, and what's become of my ſon?" an only child, who died about ſix years ago. "I believe they are all well," reply'd the courier, "but I do not come "from them, I come immediately from "his majeſty king George."

On opening the packet, he found a commiſſion declaring him vice-admiral of the blue, and commander in chief of a ſquadron of his majeſty's ſhips of war to be ſent to the Weſt-Indies, for annoying the Spaniards in their trade, and for deſtroying their ſettlements; and at the ſame time there was a letter requiring his immediate attendance upon the king at St. James's.

On ſhewing the contents to his lady, ſhe was as much ſurpriſed as her huſband; ſhe adviſed him take his reſt, and to conſider of the matter till the morning. "No, ſaid the admiral, tho' I love you "tenderly, and would pay as much re-

"gard

" gard to your advice as you could ex-
" pect from me, who admire your perſon,
" and honour your virtues; yet the ſer-
" vice and intereſt of my country muſt
" prevail over every private conſidera-
" tion; and now, that his majeſty has ho-
" noured me with his commands, it is
" juſt I ſhould obey, without heſitation."
The admiral was poſitively fixed in his reſolution, and his lady became quickly reſigned. He immediately ordered a poſt-chaiſe to be got ready, and arrived at St. James's, without halting, about ten in the morning.

On the 19th of July 1739 admiral Vernon received his final inſtructions, under his majeſty's ſign manual, " To
" deſtroy the Spaniſh ſettlements in the
" Weſt-Indies, and to diſtreſs their ſhip-
" ping by every method whatever."

He only deſired three or four days to ſettle his domeſtic buſineſs, while the ſhips were getting ready to ſail under his command: and theſe were the following men of war.

The

The Burford, on board of which the admiral hoiſted his flag, captain Watſon, who has been the only ſucceſsful ſea-officer during the war of 1756; ſhe mounted 70 guns, and contained 500 men.

Lenox, 70 guns and 480 men, captain Colvil Mayne.

Elizabeth, 70 guns and 480 men, captain Edward Effingham.

Kent, 70 guns and 480 men, captain Thomas Durell.

Worceſter, 60 guns and 400 men, captain Perry Mayne.

Stafford, 60 guns and 400 men, captain Thomas Trevor.

Princeſs Louiſa, 60 guns and 420 men, captain Thomas Waterhouſe.

Norwich, 50 guns and 300 men, captain Richard Herbert.

Pearl, 40 guns and 240 men, honourable Henry Legge.

This formidable fleet of ſhips weighed anchor the 23d of July from Portſmouth, and in two days arrived in Porland road, where

where they were detained by contrary winds till the 1ſt of Auguſt: in which interval of time admiral Vernon ſpared no pains to reconcile the raw men, of which there was a great number on board, to the ſea-ſervice, wherein they were engaged. He daily exerciſed the ſailors and the marines, and ſometimes ordered ſham-fights, in which all the variety that occurs from the time of firing the firſt gun, till boarding the ſhip, were gone through.

By this and the like methods, he beheld with concern the ſtate of the marines, two thirds of whom had never ſeen an engagement, and many of them had never fired a gun during the courſe of their lives.

Touch'd with the ſituation of his country, and moved with compaſſion for the men, he wrote a letter to the duke of Newcaſtle, then one of the principal ſecretaries of ſtate; and in a very moving

and

and nervous manner did he repreſent the affair, at the ſame time propoſing a remedy.

" I could wiſh," continued he, " we " had each of us a company of foot of " regular troops ſent on board each ſhip, " which would have ſtrengthened us in " numbers, as well as had their expertneſs " in handling their arms, to have incited " our men to the imitation of them.

" If we ſhould come into a general war " with France as well as Spain, I believe " your grace will have clearly perceived, " from the difficulty of manning theſe " ſhips as they are, the neceſſity there " may be for having moſt of our march- " ing regiments converted into marines; " and if they become ſeamen, they were " admitted to be diſcharged for ſuch: " that would make a good nurſery for " breeding them at a time we might pro- " bably find ſuch a neceſſity for them.

" As I have always lookt upon our " fleet, as what muſt not only protect " our trade, but ſecure us the bleſſing of

" a proteſtant ſucceſſion; your grace will
" excuſe the overflowing of a ſincere,
" though it may be an imprudent zeal,
" being convinced in my own judgment,
" that preſerving a ſuperiority at ſea, is
" the beſt ſecurity for his majeſty's go-
" vernment, as well as of the trade and
" proſperity of this kingdom."

This letter, the effect of the utmoſt ſincerity, and moſt mature deliberation, was laid before the privy council; and was honoured not only with their approbation, but even with that of the king himſelf who recommended that a proper regard ſhould be had to the admiral's propoſals.

On the 2d of Auguſt, the day he wrote the above letter, he arrived in Caveſon-bay, off Plymouth, where he was becalmed for about fourteen hours, during which time he repaired a ſmall damage, and next morning ſteered for the coaſt of Galicia.

On

On the 6th day from their ſetting ſail, captain Perry Mayne of the Worceſter made the high land of Cape-Ortugal, E. of the Groine; where he was informed that the Ferrol ſquadron had ſailed on the 21ſt of July for Cadiz, and that the Azogues ſhips had not yet arrived. All which was faithfully communicated to the duke of Newcaſtle, in a letter dated Auguſt 15th, the admiral alſo informed his grace, that having ſtationed the Lenox, the Eliſabeth, and Kent, for thirty days, to wait the arrival of the Azogues, and ſent the Pearl to her ſtation between Liſbon and Oporto, for three months, he was preparing to ſail for Madeira to water, and hoped to meet the Azogues ſhips at the Canaries, and from thence to ſteer with all expedition to the Weſt-Indies; concluding with an intreaty, to be reinforced with ſhips ſufficient to face any ſquadron the miniſtry might hear to be ſent againſt him.

On the 26th of Auguſt the ſquadron, now reduced to five ſhips, arrived at Madeira, where plenty of wine, water, and all manner of proviſions were taken in.

The admiral agreed upon the ſignal for ſailing on the 30th; but not before he had diſpatched a ſloop with particular orders to commodore Brown, then commander of a Britiſh ſquadron at Jamaica, to hold his ſhips in readineſs to join. He likewiſe ſettled the rendezvous with the ſeveral captains, in caſe of a ſeparation; and at the ſame time wrote to the duke of Newcaſtle an account of the ſtate he was in: he expreſſed a ſuſpicion from the intelligence he had received at ſea, that the Ferrol ſquadron had ſailed before him to convoy the galleons; he preſſed for a reinforcement to enable him to face the enemy; declared his reſolution to incur the cenſure of raſhneſs, rather than the want of zeal; and concludes in theſe words: "Your grace muſt bear a part in

" the cenſure, if I am too weak for the " work aſſigned me."

On the morning of the 30th of Auguſt the ſquadron ſailed for Antigua, off which iſland they arrived on the 29th of September.

For ſome days the ſhips beat about the iſlands to procure intelligence, to find out the ſtationed ſhips, and to take a ſkilful pilot on board to conduct them to the Caraccas: but being diſappointed in every branch of his expectation, the admiral haſtened to bear away in queſt of the galleons; and hearing that three Spaniſh ſhips were taking in goods on the Caraccas coaſt, he ſent an equal number to ſurpriſe them; ſo that all being ſettled, he proceeded to Port-Royal in Jamaica, where he arrived on the 12th of October.

His firſt care was to notify his arrival to governor Trelawney, both to deſire his excellency's aſſiſtance in the work for which the ſquadron had been ſent into

thoſe parts, and to aſſure him of his own zeal to execute the ſame. The former part the governor complied with, and the latter he was ready to believe.

At Port-Royal intelligence was received, that neither the Ferrol fleet, nor any of the galleons were ready to ſail for Europe; that no fair had yet been opened at Porto-Bello; and that no ſhip or veſſel would ſail till after Chriſtmas.

This entirely altered the admiral's thoughts: an attack upon Carthagena or Porto-Bello became the immediate object of his next proceedings. The only queſtion was, how to attain ſucceſs: for procuring which he ſent a ſloop with a flag of truce, and an offer to exchange for the South-ſea agent and factors, Don Pedro Elliſtagaritta, the Spaniſh admiral's captain, who had been ſurpiſed and brought off from Carthagena, on the 10th of September, by captain Stapylton, and others. By theſe means he hoped to have certain advice of the Spaniſh force in thoſe parts,

though

though he did not expect any compliance with the exchange propoſed.

While this ſloop was gone, it was diſcovered by ſome letters taken in a Spaniſh prize, "That four Engliſh ſhips, under "commodore Brown, had attacked and "battered down a fort which the Spani-"ards were building between Matterſes "and the Havannah; and that thereupon "they had embargoed all the Engliſh "factory, and an Engliſh brigantine be-"longing to the aſſiento company, that "lay down at the Moon-caſtle ready to "have ſailed, and ſent directions to do "the ſame at St. Jago."

On the 28th commodore Brown returned to Port-Royal harbour from a cruize; and the admiral having obtained a full ſtate of the Spaniſh ſhipping and of their ſtations, and judging that they had agreed to join at Carthagena, in their way to Porto-bello, to open the great fair, the money having been brought from Panama ſome time before, he reſolved to ſail im-

mediately, and if poſſible to reach Porto-bello before the arrival of the Spaniſh galleons, determining to deſtroy the for-fications, and to nail up the cannon; or if the galleons had arrived, to attack theſe in the harbour.

For this purpoſe he got together the beſt pilots, among whom was William Smye captain of a ſloop of fourteen car-riage guns and ten ſwivels, a man of great experience, who had annually diſturbed the navigation of the Spaniards upon the coaſt of Panama, and carried off a conſi-derable booty from thence.

As this expedition was reckoned of the utmoſt importance, ſo every method was tried to render it ſucceſsful. An embargo was laid upon all ſhipping for three days, to prevent intelligence being carried to the enemy. Governor Trelawney ſent him as many ſoldiers as he could ſpare, under captain Newton, an officer of cou-rage and experience. Of all which ſteps the admiral gave a circumſtantial account

to

to the duke of Newcaſtle, in a letter dated October 31. "I hope, ſays he, from the "ſucceſs of this expedition, to convince "our royal maſter, however I may have "been miſrepreſented to him formerly, "that no man in Britain has a ſincerer "inclination to ſerve his majeſty faith-"fully and reſolutely."

This letter coming to hand upon the 15th of December, could not fail of giving entire ſatisfaction, eſpecially as war had been declared againſt Spain on the 23d of October before: and what tended to encreaſe the ſatisfaction, was that Spain had received two ſenſible ſtrokes about this time; one of which from captain Knowles, who took a Spaniſh ſhip wherein were ſeventy four thouſand pieces of eight, and cloathing for the whole garriſon of St. Auguſtine; the other wound was from admiral Haddock, who on the 23d of September took the St. Joſeph, a rich Spaniſh ſhip bound from the Caraccas, of eight hundred tons and ſeventy

ſeven men; and on the 3d of October another rich prize of two hundred and eighty tons from the ſame place, with many other ſhips of leſſer value.

Theſe advantages were no way inconſiderable, but more than all theſe was expected from admiral Vernon; who ſenſible of the utility that might redound to the enemy from a delay on his part, prepared to ſet out as ſoon as poſſible on the intended expedition: at the ſame time he ordered a convoy for the trade to England, and ſtationed a ſhip to cruize to the windward for protecting the trade from that quarter.

Every thing being ſettled, and the ſignals communicated to the captains, he on the 3d of November ordered commodore Brown to wear his diſtinguiſhing pendant on board the Hampton-court, and to be ready to proceed to ſea with the other ſhips on the 5th in the morning; at which time he ſailed from the harbour with a ſquadron of ſix men of war, of which the

Hamp-

Hampton-court of 70 guns and 495 men, commanded by commodore Brown and captain Dent, was to lead with the ſtarboard, and the Princeſs Louiſa with the larboard tacks a-board, and the commodore was to repeat the ſignals. The other ſhips were the Norwich, Worceſter, Burford, and Strafford. With theſe he proceeded towards Porto-bello, where he had appointed the rendezvous, having left orders for the Diamond, Windſor, and Angleſea, to compleat their proviſions for ten weeks, and follow him.

The ſquadron being at ſea, the admiral on the 7th delivered his orders to commodore Brown and the other captains, appointing the following diſpoſitions for the attack.

" That upon making the land of Porto-
" bello, and having a fair wind to favour
" them, and day-light for the attempt,
" to have their ſhips clear in all reſpects
" for immediate ſervice, and on the pro-
" per ſignal to form themſelves into the

" line of battle above directed, and being
" formed to follow the ſame order of
" battle to the manner hereafter directed.
" And as the north ſhore of the harbour
" of Porto-bello has been repreſented to
" the admiral to be a bold ſteep ſhore, on
" which at the firſt entrance ſtood the caſtle
" de Ferro, or Iron-caſtle; commodore
" Brown and the ſhips that followed,
" were directed to paſs the ſaid fort within
" leſs than a cable's length, for giving
" the Spaniards the warmer fire both
" from the muſquetry as well as their
" cannon: and then commodore Brown
" was to ſteer for the Gloria-caſtle, and
" anchor as near as he could to the eaſter-
" moſt part of it, for battering down the
" defence of it, ſo as to leave room for
" captain Mayne in the Worceſter, to an-
" chor aſtern of him againſt the weſtermoſt
" baſtion of it, to do the ſame there; who
" was to follow ſuch further orders as the
" commodore ſhould give him for at-
" tacking the ſaid caſtle: and captain

Herbert

"Herbert in the Norwich, after giving
"his fire to the Iron-caſtle as he paſſed
"by it, was to make directly up to the
"caſtle of St. Jeronimo, lying to the
"eaſtward of the town, and anchoring
"as near as he could to it, to batter it
"down: and captain Trevor in the Straf-
"ford following the admiral, was to
"come to an anchor againſt the Caſtle
"de Ferro, and far enough to the eaſt-
"ward to leave room for captain Water-
"houſe in the Princeſs Louiſa to anchor
"aſtern of him, for battering the weſter-
"moſt part; being to continue on that
"ſervice to make themſelves maſters of
"it: and the youngeſt officers to follow
"the further orders of the elder in the
"proſecution of the attack: and if the
"weather was favourable for it, on their
"going in, each ſhip was directed, be-
"ſides having his long-boat towing a-
"ſtern, to have his barge alongſide to
"tow the long-boats away with ſuch part
"of the ſoldiers as could conveniently go

in

" in them directly on board the admiral,
" for his directing a deſcent with them
" where he ſhould find it would moſt
" favour the ſeveral attacks."

And the admiral repreſented to the ſeveral captains, " That from the mens
" inexperience in ſervice, it was neceſſary
" to take more precaution to prevent
" hurry and confuſion, and a fruitleſs
" waſte of powder and ſhot; directing
" them all to give the ſtricteſt orders to
" the reſpective officers, that were to com-
" mand the ſeveral batteries, to take care
" that no gun was fired but what they,
" or thoſe they particularly appointed,
" ſaw firſt levelled and directed the firing
" of: and that they ſhould ſtrictly pro-
" hibit all their men from hollowing,
" and making ſuch-like irregular noiſe,
" that would only ſerve to throw them-
" ſelves into confuſion, till ſuch time as
" the ſervice was fully performed, and
" they had nothing left to do but to glory
" in their victory, which ſuch confuſion

" might

" might often prevent, and otherwiſe " prove fatal to them. And thoſe that " had the cohorn mortars on board, were " directed to make uſe of them againſt " the reſpective forts they were appointed " to batter and deſtroy."

About the ſame time captain Stapleton in the Sheerneſs was ordered for Carthagena, " To look in on the back of the " town, and ſee whether the galleons were " ſtill in that harbour, and carefully to " obſerve their motions; and if he found " them already at, or in a diſpoſition for " coming to ſea, or that any men of war " were to come to join them, then to " make the beſt of his way for Porto-bello, " to give the earlieſt advice of it he could, " to prevent the admiral's being ſur- " priſed."

Proper ſignals were appointed inſtead of hailing, as the laſt-mentioned practice has frequently been attended with bad conſequences on an enemy's coaſt, eſpecially in the night time.

It

It was the evening of the 20th of November before the ſquadron could have a ſight of Porto-bello; where, in a few hours, a ſcene of horror and bloodſhed was to be opened, and of which place it will not be improper here to give a deſcription.

The town of Porto-bello is ſituated on the north ſide of the famous iſthmus of Darien, which running in a manner from eaſt to weſt between the North and South-ſeas, joins the two vaſt continents of North and South-America. It is about eighteen leagues from Panama, which lies on the ſouth ſide of the iſthmus. It has a commodious bay about a mile deep, affording good anchorage and ſhelter for ſhips, and near half a mile broad at the mouth of the harbour. At the entrance of the north ſide of the bay, on the ſide of a ſteep rock, ſtood a ſtrong caſtle called the Iron-caſtle, mounting ſeventy eight great guns, with a battery beneath parallel with the water, which mounted twenty two guns: the caſtle and fort garriſoned by

by three hundred men. On the oppoſite ſide the bay, but near a mile farther up on the aſcent, ſtood the Caſtle-gloria, conſiſting of two regular baſtions to the the ſea mounting ninety guns, with a curtain between them mounting twenty two guns, beſides a line of eight guns that pointed to the mouth of the harbour, the whole defended by four hundred men: a little above this caſtle, near the other end of the town, on a point that ran into the bay, ſtood Fort St. Jeronimo, being a kind of quadrangular redoubt, ſtrongly built, well planted with cannon, and properly defended. Under the cannon of Gloria Caſtle and Fort St. Jeronimo, all the ſhips belonging to the harbour rode at anchor; and this defence, together with the guns on the Iron Caſtle, rendered the entrance of the harbour very difficult, and extremely dangerous. At the bottom of the harbour lies the town, bending along the ſhore like a half-moon: it is long and narrow, having two princi-

pal

pal ſtreets beſides thoſe that go acroſs, with a ſmall parade about the middle of it, ſurrounded with fair houſes. It conſiſts of about five hundred houſes, two churches, a treaſury, a cuſtom-houſe, and an exchange. The eaſt-ſide is low and ſwampy, and the ſea at lower-water leaves the ſhore within the harbour bare a great way from the houſes, which having blackiſh filthy mud ſtinks very much, and breeds noiſome vapours through the heat of the climate, it lying in the tenth degree of north latitude; for this reaſon it is but thinly peopled, except at the time of the fair, which alone gives great reputation to the place, as being the market through which all the wealth of Peru, and the manufactures of Europe, annually circulate. This place was taken by the Buccaneers in 1688, but was ſoon refortified in a much ſtronger manner, had been long eſteemed impregnable, and was formerly told could not be taken by a large ſquaqron, and at leaſt eight thouſand men, when

when the Britiſh ſhips and ſailors lay rotting at the Baſtimentos.

The Britiſh ſquadron being off this harbour, and the wind failing, the admiral, leſt he ſhould be drawn to the eaſt of thereof, made the ſignal for coming to anchor at the diſtance of ſix leagues off the ſhore. In the morning the fleet plied to windward in line of battle, but the wind proving eaſterly, the attack was confined to the iron fort only, cloſe to which captain Renton piloted the ſquadron.

Commodore Brown, in the Hampton-court, led the attack, and in about twenty-five minutes fired no leſs than four hundred ſhot. He was ſo well ſeconded by captain Herbert in the Norwich, and captain Mayne in the Worceſter, that ſome of the Spaniſh officers and ſoldiers ſoon fled from the fort, which the admiral obſerving, he made the ſignal for the boats, in which were about forty ſailors, a company of marines and three officers, to

haſten

haſten their landing, while he was coming up to the fort, in order to batter it; while luffing up to the fort as near as poſſible, he was welcomed by a volley, every ſhot of which almoſt took place; one ſtruck away the ſtern of his barge, another broke a large gun on his upper deck, a third went thro' the foretop-maſt, a fourth paſſing thro' the awnings, within two inches of the main-maſt, beat down the barricado of the quarter deck, very near the admiral, killed three men, and wounded five others.

No way diſcouraged at this, the Britiſh ſeamen on board the admiral's ſhip, returned the ſalute both with their cannon and ſmall arms, which laſt drove the Spaniards from their lower batteries, and killed two of their principal engineers; the landing from the boats was now free from danger: as theſe came near the admiral's ſhip, he called to them to go directly on thoſe under the walls of their fort in the front of their lower batteries, tho' there

was

was no breach made: his orders were obeyed, they all landed ſafe, except two ſoldiers, who were killed each by a ball from the caſtle: never was more eagerneſs ſhewn than on this occaſion: in ſcaling the fort walls, one man ſet himſelf cloſe under an embraſure, whilſt another climbed upon his ſhoulders, and entered under the mouth of a great gun: this raiſed in the enemy ſo general a conſternation, that both officers and men, who had ſtood to the lower battery, threw down their arms and fled to the upper part of the fort, where they held out a white flag as a ſignal of capitulation: the admiral anſwered by another, but it was ſome time before he could ſtop his own men, or thoſe on board the Strafford from firing.

In the mean time, the ſeamen had climbed up the walls of the lower battery, ſtruck the colours, and drawn the ſoldiers up after them: on which the Spaniards, who had fled to the upper apartments, ſoon ſurrendered at diſcretion: their

their number conſiſted of three officers and thirty-five private men, out of three hundred, who, except all theſe, were either killed, wounded, or had made their eſcape: they at firſt ſhut themſelves up in a ſtrong lodgment, but on the Engliſh firing a gun through the door, they ſoon opened, and begged for quarter, which was given them.

By this time the ſhips that went in before the admiral, were fallen to leeward, ſo as to be out of ſight of Gloria Caſtle, but the admiral's ſhip lying open to it; they kept firing one of their largeſt guns at him all night, tho' with little damage, for not being within Point Blank, their ſhot either did not reach, or elſe went over him; only one ſhot went thro' his foretop maſt, juſt above the rigging, but but did no other harm; he tried ſome of his lower tier, which being new braſs guns, anſwered beyond expectation; every ſhot carried over the Gloria Caſtle into the town, one of them went thro' the governor's

vernor's houſe, ſome thro' other houſes, and one ſunk a ſloop under Gloria Caſtle.

This ſucceſsful beginning was attended only with the loſs of three men killed, and five wounded on board the Worceſter; and one ſailor had both his legs ſhot off on board the Hampton-court, two ſoldiers were wounded in landing, one of whom died in four hours after.

The next morning, being the twenty-ſecond, the admiral went on board commodore Brown, to hold a conſultation with the captains, and to give out the neceſſary orders for warping the ſhips up the next night, in order to attack Gloria Caſtle the night following, as it would not be practicable to attempt it in the day-time: but the conſultation was prevented by the enemy's putting up a white flag at the Gloria Caſtle, and ſending a boat with a flag of truce, and with it a lieutenant of a man of war, and the governor's adjutant, bearing the conditions on which they deſired to capitulate; which were,

"That

" That the government would deliver up " all the fortifications, provided they " might be allowed to march out with " the honours of war, have an indem- " nity for themſelves, the town, and the " inhabitants, and be permitted to enjoy " all the ſhips in the harbour." This laſt could by no means be granted, as the admiral reſolved to have all the ſhips, being thoſe who had done the Engliſh merchants the injuries complain'd of: accordingly he drew up the forms on which he would capitulate, and diſpatched them back, allowing them only five hours to conſider of them; but within the time limited they ſent a meſſenger with a letter ſigned by Don Franciſco Martines de Retez, governor of Porto-bello, and Don Franciſco de Abarea, commander of the Guarda Coſtas there, accepting the terms, which were prepared and executed on the ſame day, and are as follow :

By the 1ſt, " The garriſon were allow- " ed to march out as deſired, upon condi-

" tion

" tion the king of Great Britain's troops
" were put into poſſeſſion of Gloria Caſtle
" before four of the clock that evening,
" and the garriſon to march out by the
" next morning.

" The inhabitants might either remove
" or remain, under a promiſe of ſecurity
" for themſelves and their effects.

2d, " That the Spaniſh ſoldiers might
" have a guard if they thought it ne-
" ceſſary.

3d, " That they might carry off two
" cannons mounted, with ten charges of
" powder for each, and their match light-
" ed.

4th, " That the gates of Gloria Caſtle
" ſhould abſolutely be in poſſeſſion of the
" Britiſh troops by four of the clock;
" and the Spaniſh garriſon ſhould remain
" in all ſafety for their perſons and ef-
" fects, till the appointed time for their
" marching out, and to carry with them
" the proviſions and ammunition neceſ-
" ſary for their ſafety.

5th, "That the ſhips, with their ap-
"parel and arms, ſhould be abſolutely
"delivered up to the uſe of his Britannic
"majeſty; but that all the officers, both
"ſoldiers and crew, ſhould have three
"days allowed them to retire with their
"perſonal effects; only one officer being
"admitted on board each ſhip and veſſel,
"to take poſſeſſion for his Britannic ma-
"jeſty, and ſee the articles ſtrictly com-
"plied with.

6th, "That provided the articles were
"ſtrictly complied with, and that poſſeſ-
"ſion was given of the caſtle of St. Jero-
"nimo, in the ſame manner as ſtipulated
"for the Caſtle Gloria; then the clergy,
"the churches, and town ſhould be pro-
"tected and preſerved in all their immu-
"nities and properties.

"And that all priſoners already taken,
"ſhould be ſet at liberty before their leav-
"ing the port."

Before night captain Newton, with a detachment of about one hundred and

twenty ſoldiers took poſſeſſion of Gloria Caſtle and St. Jeronimo fort, being the remaining fortreſſes that guarded the harbour, in which were two Spaniſh men of war of 20 guns each, and a ſnow, but at this time they were almoſt abandoned; their crews ſeeing the bold and regular attack on the iron fort, and deſpairing of being capable to defend themſelves, they plundered the town in the night of the 21ſt, and committed great outrages on the unfortunate inhabitants, as did the Spaniſh garriſon, from a perſuaſion of their own incapacity to ſtand a ſtorm from ſo daring and reſolute an enemy.

Things ſucceeding ſo well, the admiral took on board his ſhips, from the ſeval fortreſſes, forty pieces of braſs cannon, ten braſs field pieces, four braſs mortars, and eighteen braſs patteraroes, knocked off the the trunnions of above eighty iron cannon, and ſpiked them up. He alſo took on board all their ſhot and ammunition, except 122 barrels of powder,

which he expended in ſpringing mines, by which all the fortifications of the town were blown up, and the harbour left open and defenceleſs.

Ten thouſand dollars that were arrived and deſigned for paying the Spaniſh troops at Portobello, falling into the admiral's hands, he diſtributed them among the forces for their encouragement.

On the 23d the admiral ordered all the captains "Not to ſend any of the boats "aſhore without an officer, for whoſe con- "duct they would be reſponſible; and as "ſecurity from plundering perſons and "effects was granted by the capitulation, "they were ſtrictly to prohibit its being "put in practice in any ſort; and to aſ- "ſure whoever attempted it, they ſhould "not only be puniſhed for the infraction "of the capitulation, but be deprived of "their ſhare of the ſeveral captures that "were ſecured for a reward of their gallant "diſcharge of their duty." And for inter- cepting any thing that might be coming into,

into, or going out of the harbour without permiſſion, the admiral gave orders "for "a lieutenant, with a barge well manned "and armed, to be on duty on board the "weſtermoſt ſhip every night, to keep "guard there the whole night, rowing "every now-and-then croſs the harbour; "alſo a ſufficient guard to be nightly "mounted every watch to prevent ſur-"prizes." The admiral, tender of the national honour of his country, and knew well how neceſſary it was for a lenient and mild uſe of his conqueſt, to cultivate a good opinion of the Britiſh faith and integrity, among the Spaniards, thereby to promote private trade on the coaſt, and to eradicate thoſe abominable notions of Engliſh heretics, villains, and cruel ſpoilers, inſtilled among the inhabitants by the craft and ſubtilty of the jeſuits. For this purpoſe he diſperſed the ſtricteſt orders among the ſquadron, "punctually and "religiouſly, inviolably to preſerve to the "Spaniards, the conditions of their capi-

" tulation, and the other humane conceſ-
" ſions granted to them ſince, as agreeable
" to the inclinations of his royal maſter,
" and the nature of an Engliſhman."

On the 27th captain Knowles arrived in the Diamond, and in two days after, the Windſor, captain Berkley, and the Angleſea, captain Reddiſh, came in.

On the 6th of December captain Stapylton returned from his cruize off Carthagena, having taken two veſſels going to that place with ſtores and proviſions.

During the admiral's ſtay at Portobello, he ſent a letter to the preſident of Panama, demanding the releaſement of the factors and ſervants of the South-ſea company who were confined at that place, as alſo of their own perſonal and the company's effects, threatening to proceed to ſhew a juſt reſentment in caſe of a refuſal. The governor anſwered in a trifling manner, which irritated the admiral ſo much, that he ſent him another, couched in the ſtrongeſt terms, and concluding thus:

thus: "Health and proſperity to all true "Spaniards, who may lament ſacrificing "the true intereſt of their country to the "ambition of an Italian queen." This produced not only a very angry reply, but even provoked the governor to refuſe the admiral's demands, with reſpect to the effects, but not with regard to the other, for the preſident of Panama ſent an officer with Mr. Humphrys and Dr. Wright, factors, and alſo with the ſervants of the South-ſea company, who were delivered to the admiral.

The conqueſt of Portobello, in which the conduct, the courage and humanity of Mr. Vernon ſhone ſo brightly, was attended with many national advantages, as the Jamaica merchants, whoſe trade extends to every part of the Britiſh ſettlements throughout the world, were at full liberty to trade with the Spaniards free and unmoleſted.

The conqueſt of Carthagena next ingroſſed the care of the admiral, and could he have attempted it immediately, he might have deſtroyed the galleons, which were at that time in great want both of naval ſtores and proviſions; beſides, the month of December is the fitteſt time for an expedition into that unwholeſome climate, as we ſhall ſee hereafter.

THE LIFE OF Admiral VERNON.

BOOK V.

The admiral returns to Jamaica, ſends an account of his ſucceſs to England; the honours conferred upon him there.

ON the thirteenth of December admiral Vernon, with his ſquadron, ſailed from Portobello, and having reaſon to apprehend from the intelligence brought by captain Reddiſh, that the Ferrol ſquadron might be near the Windward paſſage leading from Jamaica, he on the 15th gave the follow-

ing orders to all the captains, "Not "on any conſideration to hazard loſing "company with the flag; and that in caſe "of ſeparation, the firſt place of general "rendezvous for twenty-four hours would "be under Point a Canoe; but not ſeeing "any thing of the admiral in that time, "they were to make the beſt of their way "for the next general place of rendez-"vous at Port-royal." Being off Carthagena, on the 28th, he ſent captain Renton in the Triumph, a Spaniſh ſnow, with a circumſtantial account of all that he had done, both to the duke of Newcaſtle, and to Sir Charles Wager, promiſing to loſe no time in preparing for an expedition againſt Carthagena, tho' he was informed, that a force of men of war in that harbour, was equal to what he ſhould be able to carry with him, and beſides a hundred and fifty guns upon the walls and works, a garriſon of eight hundred ſoldiers, and a numerous militia. He tells the duke, "that

"he

" he was then making his laſt effort in his " preſent ſituation; for that without a full " and ſpeedy ſupply of naval ſtores, his " ſquadron would be all laid up by the " walls, and rendered unactive.— For, " he adds, unleſs his majeſty's orders fur- " niſh the means, and ſhips be ſent out " well found with ſtores, and conſtantly " ſupplied, the zeal of the moſt diligent " and able officer may be rendered intire- " ly fruitleſs." He informs his grace of a letter from Don Blas, in anſwer to two the admiral had ſent him; which letters, ſays Mr. Vernon, " will be beſt anſwered " from the mouth of our mortars, which " may inſtruct him where to find me, if " he continues in his heroic diſpoſition." ——[He charged the Engliſh admiral with cowardice for diſmantling Porto-bello, and threatens him with retaliation wherever he ſhall meet him.]—In his letter to Sir Charles, the admiral is ſtill more explicit: " though, ſays he, I have " all the information I could well gather

" from others, in regard to the ſtrength " of Carthagena, and the beſt plans I could " procure of the Havanna and La Vera " Cruz, yet not having viewed them my- " ſelf, I cannot inform you particularly, " what I ſhall or can attempt, as they may " depend upon various incidents; but " can aſſure you, I ſhall ſet out fully diſ- " poſed to do all in my power, and in " ſome meaſure with the impatience, you " mention in others, to have the Spa- " niards blown up; and ſhall have a ſecret " pleaſure in humbling their pride, and " amply retaliating all the injuries and " depredations they have been ſo long " practiſing againſt us."— He then propoſes a ſcheme for the better manning of the fleet, by following the example of the Dutch, &c. who procure foreign ſeamen for their ſervice, by liſting them at Hamborough and the Hans-towns, upon conditions for a time certain; and remonſtrates againſt the new model of the king's ſhips, which gives them too much maſt

and

and ſails.—" For, ſays he, I think, when " going upon a wind, you preſs a ſhip ſo " down in the water, as to bring an un- " natural body for her to draw through " the water; it cannot be expected ſhe " ſhould force that body ſo quick thro' " the water, as if ſhe went in a more up- " right and natural ſituation; and that " therefore, in reſpect to going upon a " wind, it is better a ſhip ſhould be under- " maſted than over; and as to going large, " and in light winds, I apprehend a great " cloud of canvas would be better ſup- " plied in very large ſmall ſails, than by " very ſquare yards to be ſpreading a large " clue of heavy canvas, whoſe very weight, " in light winds, forces the wind out of the " ſail, &c. I think alſo that it would be " a great preſervative to maſts and rig- " ging, to have the low yards fixed with " flying parrels, becauſe this would pre- " ſerve the rigging from being racked to " pieces by tracing the yards, and give " opportunity for ſtriking a top-maſt with

" the

"the low ſails ſtanding, and contribute "to a ſhip's ſailing by not being too much "bound." And in his letter to the admiralty, he attributes the diſaſters met with from the ſtormy weather in his way from Portobello, to his being over-maſted, being ſent to ſea with their old guard-ſhip rigging overhead. He charges the officers of the yards ordered to load ſtores for the ſhips on ſervice, with ſending to him, &c. old lumber out of the yards; next obſerving the inconveniency of an hoſpital for ſailors in a town abounding with punch-houſes, to which places the ſick crawl as often as able to get out, and thereby deſtroy themſelves, he propoſes a model for an hoſpital to be built of wood, after the manner of the canes at Smyrna, a large ſquare building to be erected in the country, with only one outſide door, and that door to be ſo guarded, that no one could paſs without due examination.

But while captain Renton was haſtening to England, the ſquadron proceeded to

to Port-Royal; where, notwithſtanding the ſhips were diſperſed in a ſtorm, and ſuffered much in their maſts and rigging, they joined a few days after.

From the moment of his arrival at Jamaica, he ſet about every kind of preparation for attempting the conqueſt of Carthagena, which to effect, he ſailed from Port-Royal, on the 25th of February, with the Princeſs Louiſa, the Windſor, Norwich, Falmouth and Greenwich men of war; the Succeſs, Cumberland, Eleanor, Alderney, Terrible, Brig, Pompey, and Goadley frigates, with fireſhips, bombs and tenders: the Hampton-court, Worceſter, Diamond and Torrington, were left at Jamaica with commodore Brown, for protecting the iſland and ſhipping.

By means of a fair wind, he, on the firſt of March, arrived within view of the high-land of St. Martha on the Spaniſh main, and ordered captain Wyndham in the Greenwich, "to plie up in the night, and "lie to windward of the port, for inter-

"cepting

" cepting any thing that might be coming " in there the next day," and then bore away with an eaſy ſail for Carthagena. On the third in the evening, he anchored with the ſquadron in nine fathom water in the open Bay called Playa Grande; and on the ſixth ordered in all the bomb-ketches, with the ſmall ſhips and tenders for covering them, and continued to bombard the outworks till nine in the morning. The ſquadron received no damage from the town, tho' the ſhells from the ſhips fell there pretty ſucceſsfully, particularly into the principal church, the Jeſuits College and the Cuſtom-houſe; ſeveral houſes interjacent between theſe were beat down, and a ſhell that fell into the ſouth Baſtion, ſilenced a battery of ten guns for a long time: the inhabitants were in a conſternation; and had the ſquadron been a little ſtronger, perhaps the opportunity had been improved, but the cautious admiral, conſidering that his force was inconſiderable, contented himſelf

ſelf with " having done enough," (to uſe his own words, in his letter to the duke of Newcaſtle) " to awaken Don Blas de " Leſo, and to let him know that I was " not ſtealing upon him by ſurpriſe."

After ſettling with the captains the place of rendezvous, which was to be either in the harbour of Porto-bello, or off the mouth of the river Chagre, in the bay to the eaſtward of it, he on the 9th drew off his bomb-ketches and ſmall craft, and weighed anchor next morning.

After hoiſting the ſignal for the line of battle, he coaſted the ſhore toward Bocca Chica, and at this time made proper obſervations for regulating any future deſcent upon Carthagena. The Spaniards fired at the fleet from the three ſmall caſtles without Bocca Chica, but none of their ſhot reached the Britiſh ſhips.

About this time, receiving intelligence that the Vizara and St. Juan, two Spaniſh men of war, and a ſnow had orders from Don Blas to haſten to Carthagena, the ad-

admiral detached captain Berkley in the Windſor, and the Greenwich captain Wyndham, "To cruize off that port for "twenty days, to intercept, take, or de- "ſtroy the ſaid men of war, but prin- "cipally to watch the motions of the "galleons."

On the 13th he was joined at ſea by the Diamond, captain Knowles, who was ordered directly "To go on board the "Succeſs fire-ſhip, and in company with "the brig tender to get off the mouth of "the Chagre, and there uſe the beſt of "his judgment in getting all proper in- "formation, how the fort at the mouth "of that river could be attacked, either "by bombardment or cannonading, and "particularly to inform himſelf of the "ſoundings and depth of water there- "abouts; to be certain how near any of "the ſhips could approach; and to ob- "ſerve what convenient landing places "might be near; and return to the ad- "miral as ſoon as he conveniently could,

"who

" who would be making an eaſy ſail after " him, to lie off the ſaid river, till he " ſhould receive his information to form " the future plan of operations upon."

On the 14th the ſquadron anchored in the harbour of Porto-bello, whence, in four days after, the admiral detached the Succeſs and Eleanor, " To cruiſe off the " mouth of the Chagre for ſeven days, " or till the ſquadron ſhould ſooner ap- " pear off there, for preventing the Spa- " niſh privateer ſloops from putting to " ſea from thence, or intercepting any " thing that might be coming or going " there.

The admiral, during his ſtay at Porto-bello, procured the beſt information, and an exact draught of all the coaſt from Porto-bello to Chagre, and of the mouth of the river and ſhoal before it, from Mr. Lowther the pirate, who took this opportunity to obtain his pardon, and return to England, in conſideration of this ſervice.

On

On the 22d he put to ſea with the Strafford and Norwich, leaving orders with the Louiſa and Falmouth " to haſten " in compleating their watering, and fol- " low him :" but being retarded by the ſplitting of the foretopſail yard of the Strafford, he ordered captain Herbert in the Norwich " To make all the ſail he could, " and enter the harbour of Chagre before " him, with the bomb-ketches, fireſhips, " and tenders under his orders; and cap- " tain Knowles as engineer, on board " the bomb-ketches, for placing them to " play on the caſtle of St. Lorenzo, at " the mouth of the river Chagre; and to " cover them with his own ſhip and the " reſt."

The ſame day captain Knowles got to an anchor by three in the afternoon, and in the evening began to fire from his cannon and mortars. By ten at night the admiral in the Strafford got to an anchor, as did the Falmouth and Princeſs Louiſa about an hour after. They continued bom-

bombarding and cannonading with three ſhips, firing leiſurely only from their lower tier till Monday the 24th, when the Spaniards hung out a flag of truce, which was anſwered from the admiral, and captain Knowles was ſent on ſhore; he ſoon returned with Don Juan Carlos Gutierer de Ranettas, caſtillanor or governor of the fort, to whom the following capitulation was granted:

1ſt, "That upon his Britannick majeſty's being put into immediate poſſeſſion of Fort St. Lorenzo, the caſtillanor and all his garriſon ſhould be at liberty to march out without any moleſtation, and retire into the village of Chagre, or where elſe they pleaſed.

2d, "That the inhabitants of Chagre might remain in their habitations, under a promiſe of ſecurity to themſelves and their houſes.

3d, "That the guarda coſta ſloops ſhould be delivered up to his Britannick ma-

" majeſty in the condition they were, and " the king of Spain's cuſtom-houſe.

4th, " That the clergy and churches " in the town of Chagre ſhould be pro- " tected and preſerved in all their im- " munities."

This being ſettled, the governor was ſent back with captain Knowles, who being appointed governor of the caſtle for his Britannick majeſty, took poſſeſſion of it about three in the afternoon with a garriſon of one hundred and twenty men and five lieutenants.

That evening a guard was placed upon the cuſtom-houſe, on the oppoſite ſide of the Chagre, and at day-break next morning the admiral went on ſhore: he found the cuſtom-houſe full of goods, for the lading of the galleons; ſuch as guayaquil, cocoa, jeſuits bark, and Spaniſh wool; all which he ordered to be ſhipped inſtantly. The number of ſerons and bags amounted to four thouſand three hundred: the guarda coſta ſloops, being only

two,

two, were ſunk juſt above the cuſtom-houſe, carpenters being ordered to break up their decks, and entirely deſtroy them.

By Friday the 28th they cleared the cuſtom-houſe; which being filled with combuſtibles, was ſet on fire that evening, and burnt with great fierceneſs all that night.

Next morning the braſs cannon, conſiſting of eleven guns and eleven patteraroes, with a good part of the garriſon, were embarked; the lower baſtion was entirely deſtroyed by the ſpringing of two mines; next, the upper parts of the work were demoliſhed; and that very night the inner parts of the building were ſet on fire, and continued burning till the morning, when the admiral put to ſea with the ſquadron; and on the 1ſt of April, in the evening, got to the mouth of the harbour of Porto-bello, where he was joined by the Windſor and Greenwich, juſt arrived from their cruiſe off Carthagena; and on the 2d by the Burford,

which

which he had left at Jamaica to be repaired.

On the 5th Mr. Joſhua Thomas, purſer of the Strafford, was diſpatched for England, with an account of the ſucceſs of the expedition, in the little Spaniſh prize ſloop that had been taken in Porto-bello harbour.

On advice that two large Spaniſh men of war from Ferrol, with the vice-roy on board, was arrived at St. John de Porto Rico, the admiral being off the Little Baru, and imagining the vice roy might fall in with the Port of St. Martha, which was within his government, before he proceeded to Carthagena, he on the 21ſt ordered the Windſor, Greenwich and Burford, under the direction of captain Berkley, "To cruize juſt to windward of St. Martha, for intercepting "the vice-roy," who eſcaped their vigilance, for the men of war ſafely arrived at Carthagena with ſix hundred ſoldiers de-

deſigned for reinforcing the garriſon of Porto-bello.

In the mean time admiral Vernon returned with the reſt of the ſquadron to Jamaica, where he arrived on the 3d of May at Port-royal, and on the 9th wrote a letter to the duke of Newcaſtle, in which he complains of having no authentic account of the declaration of war againſt Spain ſent him.

What pity was it, that the Engliſh had not been better ſupplied with land forces? two thouſand of which would have enabled him, inſtead of demoliſhing the fortifications of Porto-bello and Chagre, not only to keep poſſeſſion of both, but even to maſter Panama itſelf; by which means he would have laid the whole coaſt of Chili, Peru, and the weſtern coaſt of Mexico open both to the trade and attacks of the Britiſh ſubjects; and by being thus poſſeſſed of the iſthmus of Darien, and receiving proper reinforcements, there would have been a great probability of

even ſeizing the mines of Peru, and diſabling Spain from ever attempting any thing againſt the commerce of Great Britain for the future.

The account of admiral Vernon's ſucceſs arriving in England, created a general joy; Fame like an eagle carried the news upon her wings; a run of addreſſes, like the waves of the ſea juſtling out one another, crowded about the throne, congratulating the king on the ſucceſs of his arms under ſo great a commander; and his majeſty, ever ready to diſtinguiſh merit, and reward it amply, left every thing for the future to the admiral's own prudence and diſcretion; which reſolution he commanded the duke of Newcaſtle to intimate, and to ſignify an intire approbation of every part of his conduct, and in a particular manner, to thank him for the humanity with which he treated the inhabitants of Portobello.

On the 18th of March, both houſes of parliament preſented an addreſs, "Con-

"gratulating

" gratulating him on the ſucceſs of admi-
" ral Vernon by entering the port and
" taking the town of Portobello, and de-
" moliſhing and levelling all the Forts
" and Caſtles belonging thereto, with ſix
" ſhips of war only; and repreſenting that
" it could not fail of giving the utmoſt
" joy to all his majeſty's ſubjects, ſince
" it afforded the moſt reaſonable hopes
" and expectations, that it might be at-
" tended with other important advan-
" tages, and highly contribute to the ob-
" taining real and effectual ſecurity of
" thoſe juſt rights of navigation and com-
" merce belonging to his majeſty's ſub-
" jects, for the preſervation of which his
" majeſty entered into that neceſſary
" war." The thanks of both houſes was tranſmitted to the admiral.

The city of London preſented likewiſe an addreſs to his majeſty, congratulating him on the glorious ſucceſs of admiral Vernon.

The parliament voted, "that the thanks "of both houſes ſhould be tranſmitted to "the admiral for his eminent ſervices;" and the citizens of London, as a mark of diſtinction, voted him the freedom of the city to be preſented in a gold box.

The name of Vernon raiſed ſatisfaction in every breaſt, and diffuſed a general joy, which was a little allay'd by the eſcape of the Aſſogue ſhips, under convoy of admiral Pizarro, who eluded the vigilance of vice-admiral Balchen; for by the way of the Lizard, he arrived with an immenſe treaſure ſafe at St. Andero in the bay of Biſcay; nine Spaniſh men of war and two frigates, likewiſe eſcaped out of Cadiz to Ferrol, and joined another fleet there intended for the Weſt-Indies.

This laſt eſcape was, like others, the effect of ſtratagem; for by making a feint to recover the iſland of Minorca, they drew off admiral Haddock from the mouth of the port of Cadiz, where he had blocked up their fleet.

Being

Being got into Ferrol, they propoſed an invaſion either of England, Scotland, or Ireland, to be conducted by the duke of Ormond, then an exile, intirely ſupported by the court of Madrid; but that nobleman refuſed to aſſiſt in any ſuch acts of hoſtility: he knew the calamities of war, and his generous heart could not think of being the leaſt acceſſory to carry it into the midſt of his native country.

Though the united ſquadron, at Ferrol gave ſome uneaſineſs to the miniſtry and people of Great Britain, yet, for want of ſupplies of treaſure from New Spain, they were detained, until the French thought it adviſeable to pull off the maſk, and to join, by ſending a ſtrong ſquadron under the marquis de Antin to Martinico, one of their ſettlements in the Weſt-Indies, with ſecret orders, not only to act in a hoſtile manner againſt the Britiſh ſubjects, either jointly with the Spaniards, or ſeparately by themſelves, but even to concert meaſures with them for attacking Jamaica,

at the ſame time declaring, that France could no longer remain an idle ſpectator of the loſſes which Spain ſuſtained in America.

The king of Great Britain remonſtrated againſt this armament by his ambaſſador, to whom cardinal Fleury uſed this expreſſion: "My lord, there is a difference "between arming, and declaring war; "it is true, the king, my maſter, has "promiſed a neutrality, but as unfore-"ſeen accidents may happen, it is pru-"dence to be prepared againſt all events."

The nation, now apprehenſive of a war with France, began to utter great diſcontent at not having more effectually ſtrengthened admiral Vernon; to ſmother which, a very potent fleet of twenty-one ſail of the line, and three fireſhips were ordered on a ſecret expedition, from whence very great things were expected: Sir John Norris, admiral of the red hoiſted his flag on board the unfortunate Victory of 110 guns, having under him Philip Cavendiſh admiral,

and

and Sir Chaloner Ogle, rear-admiral of the blue; many of the firſt quality went on board the Victory, and the duke of Cumberland embarked as a volunteer. As the deſtination of the fleet was a ſecret, ſo it raiſed the more conjectures, which were all found to be falſe in the end, for the fleet after being detained for a week at St. Helen's by contrary winds, ſailed from thence on the 14th of July, with the convoy and merchant ſhips for Portugal and the Streights; but meeting with hard gales of wind at S. W. the Lion man of war loſt her foremaſt by running foul of the Victory, whoſe bowſprit ſhe carried away; the whole returned to St. Helen's, and on the twenty-ſecond ſailed again, but were detained at Torbay for near a month; and on the 18th of September returned to Spithead, where his royal highneſs diſembarked, and where ended an expedition that had been begun and carried on at ſo great expence, and that had engroſſed the converſation almoſt of

all Europe. However, the parliament meeting Novrmber 13, the king declared his reſolution of proſecuting vigorouſly the war with Spain, even though France ſhould declare in her favour, as ſome late extraordinary proceedings had ſhewed her inclination to do; forty thouſand ſeamen were voted by the houſe of commons, as were ten regiments of foot and marines, for the ſervice of the enſuing year, with a land-tax of four ſhillings in the pound; and to encourage the ſeamen and officers to their duty, the prizes were ſolely veſted in the captors; and in December a further ſupply of two hundred thouſand pound was granted to his majeſty towards carrying on a ſecret expedition of which captain Anſon, now lord Anſon, was to have the command, the object of which was no leſs than a voyage round the earth, which he accompliſhed in the Centurion, in three years and an half.

Had the miniſtry ſupported Mr. Vernon at the time when commodore Anſon was

was traverſing the back coaſt of Peru, the court of Spain, who knew nothing of the danger, would perhaps have felt ſuch a ſenſible loſs by the conqueſt of the Iſtmus, which joins North and South America, as could never have been regained.

However, the miniſtry, tho' too late, were prevailed on, and reſolved to ſend the admiral a reinforcement of ſix regiments of marines, the regiments of Harriſon and Wentworth, and ſome other regiments under the command of lord Cathcart, a general of great experience, and who was in high eſteem with the victorious duke of Marlborough, under whom he had learnt the art of war, and practiſed it for ſeveral years; at the ſame time a regiment of Americans, conſiſting of four battalions was raiſed, and the command of it given to colonel Gooch, who ſucceeded colonel Spoitſwood, governor of Virginia, who firſt propoſed the plan for raiſing them.

The fleet deſtined for ſuccouring admiral Vernon, who was obliged to fortify himſelf in Kingſton harbour, againſt the force and machinations of France and Spain, aſſembled at Portſmouth, under the command of Sir Chaloner Ogle, and were as follows:

Torbay, 80 guns, captain Gaſcoine, having lord Cathcart on board.
Cumberland, 80 guns, captain Steuart.
Boyne, 80 guns, commodore Leſtock.
Princeſs Amelia, 80 guns, commodore Hemmington.
Chicheſter, 80 guns, captain Robert Trevor.
Norfolk, 80 guns, captain Graves.
Shrewſbury, 80 guns, captain Townſhend.
Princeſs Caroline, 80 guns, captain Griffin.
Suffolk, 70 guns, captain Davies.
Buckingham, 70 guns, captain Mitchel.
Orford, 70 guns, lord Auguſtus Fitzroy.
Prince Frederic, 70 guns, lord Aubrey Beauclerc.
Prince of Orange, 70 guns, captain Oſborn.

Lion,

Lion, 60 guns, captain Cotteril.
Weymouth, 60 guns, captain Knowles.
Superbe, 60 guns, captain Hervey.
Montague, 60 guns, captain Chalmers.
Deptford, 60 guns, captain Moſtyne.
Jerſey, 60 guns, captain Lawrence.
Auguſta, 60 guns, captain Denniſon.
Dunkirk, 60 guns, captain Cooper.
Rippon, 60 guns, captain Jolliffe.
York, 60 guns, captain Coates.
Litchfield, 50 guns, captain Cleaveland.
Ætna, Firebrand, Phaeton, Veſuvius, Flame and Vulcan fireſhips, two bomb-ketches, and hoſpital ſhips, with ſtore-ſhips, &c.

On ſunday the 26th of October, 1740, this formidable fleet ſailed from Spithead, and after a very tedious paſſage, ariſing from ſtorms and contrary winds, arrived at St. Dominica, on the 19th of December, where lord Cathcart died, on the next day after landing: his lordſhip's death was univerſally regretted, eſpecially as he was ſucceeded in command by brigadier

general Wentworth, an officer whoſe preferment took its riſe ſolely from a parliamentary intereſt.

It was the 9th of January before the fleet joined admiral Vernon, whoſe inquietude for the fate of Jamaica was now intirely relieved, he was free from all apprehenſions of any attack from the united ſquadrons of Breſt, Toulon, and Ferrol, all which had ſailed to the Weſt-Indies, both to ſecure the galleons, in which they were ſo much concerned, and to check the progreſs of the Britiſh arms: during their paſſage, four ſail of men of war were deſcried between Hiſpaniola and Jamaica; ſix men of war were immediately ſent after them; the ſix overtook the four off Cape Tiberon before it was dark; lord Aubrey Beauclerc, who commanded in the Prince Frederic, hailed them, but they refuſed either to ſend an officer on board the Engliſh, to ſatisfy them who they were, or to lie by, for the Engliſh officers ſending on board of them: as the certainty could

could not be otherwiſe known, a gun was fired to bring them to, on which an engagement enſued, which laſted till morning, when the French hoiſted their colours, and boats were ſent to clear up the point who they were, in which the Engliſh officers being ſatisfied, reciprocal civilities paſſed between them, and each continued their reſpective courſes.

No ſooner had Sir Chaloner's ſquadron arrived at Jamaica, than a council of war was appointed to conſider of what was to be done; their firſt meeting was in the governor's houſe in Spaniſh-town, where it was reſolved, that the whole fleet ſhould beat up to windward, to obſerve the motions of the French ſquadron, commanded by the Marquis d'Antin, at Port Louis.

As the fleet was now thirty ſail of the line, the admiral formed a third diviſion, over which he appointed captain Leſtock, a brave old ſeaman, to be commodore.

The Channel being ſo dangerous in going out from Port-Royal harbour, the admiral

admiral ordered out only one diviſion in a day, forwarding thoſe who were to go firſt.

On the 22d of January, Sir Chaloner Ogle got out with his diviſion of ten ſail of the line, and on the 24th commodore Brown ſailed with his diviſion of nine; and on the 26th the admiral, who had remained for giving neceſſary orders, ſailed with his diviſion of eleven men of war: but the winds growing faint that day, he anchored ſafely with them in the channel; only the Auguſta, of the admiral's diviſion, fell ſo far to leeward, as upon anchoring to veer upon a ſhoal aſtern of her, where ſhe beat off her rudder, and being rendered leaky by thumping hard, ſhe was ordered into the harbour to refit. The next day produced but little alteration, but on the 28th, he got clear to ſea, and joined the two firſt diviſions, on the 30th off the Yellows: the diviſion under Sir Chaloner Ogle conſiſted of the Princeſs Amelia, who was to lead with the ſtarboard,

and

and the Suffolk with the larboard tacks, on board, the Windſor, York, Norfolk, and Ruſſel, where was Sir Chaloner himſelf, Shrewſbury, Ripon, Litchfield, Jerſey and Tilbury, with the frigates, Experiment, Sheerneſs, Veſuvius, Terrible bomb, Phaeton and Goodley: the center diviſion was that under the admiral, and conſiſted of the Orford, Princeſs Louiſa, Worceſter, Chicheſter, Princeſs Caroline, on board of which was the admiral, the Torbay, Strafford, Weymouth, Deptford and Burford, with the frigates Squirrel, Shoreham, Eleanor, Seahorſe, Strumbolo, Succeſs, Vulcan, Cumberland, Alderney bomb, Pompey and brig Tender. Commodore Leſtock's diviſion was in the rear, and was compoſed of the Defiance, Dunkirk, Lion, Prince Frederic, Boyne, Hampton-court, Falmouth, Montague, and Suffolk.

This fleet, which, with the tranſports, made 115 ſail, got off Cape Tiberon, with a windward current on the 8th of Februa-

ry;

ry; and the ſame day was joined by the Wolf ſloop, captain Dandridge, who informed the admiral, that he look'd into the harbour of Port Louis, where he had ſeen nineteen ſail of large ſhips, one having a flag at the maintop-maſt-head, and another a broad pendant flying: but in this he was miſtaken; for the hazineſs of the weather had made him miſtake the merchant ſhips for men of war, and the maintop-maſt-head of a frigate of forty guns being in a line with a white gable end of a houſe, occaſioned the miſtake about the flag: the admiral on this, made a ſignal for general and flag officers to come on board, and to theſe he communicated the intelligence he had received: whereupon, it was reſolved to ſteer directly to the iſle of Vache, about ſix miles weſt of Port Louis, to obſerve the motions of the French, and to procure intelligence of their force and intentions.

In

In proſecution of this deſign, the fleet ſteered for Vache, where, on the twelfth, the moſt of the ſhips arrived.

On the 15th the admiral ſent his compliments to the governor of Port Louis, deſiring leave to wood and water, as the fleet had been forced by ſtrong breezes into the bay; the requeſt was granted in the politeſt manner, and the fleet was ſupplied accordingly.

At this place it was reſolved to proceed directly to Carthagena, being encouraged by the departure of the marquis d'Antin's ſquadron for old France, a few days before.

On the 25th the fleet, conſiſting of 124 ſail, ſailed to Carthagena, and on the 4th of March anchored in Playa Grande, to the windward of the town; of which it will not be improper to give a ſhort deſcription.

The city of Carthagena lies in lat. 10° 26 min. It ſtands on the Spaniſh continent, to the eaſt of the gulph of Darien, almoſt directly

directly ſouth of Jamaica, and 330 miles N.E. of Panama; by the navigation of the great rivers of Santa Martha, and Magdale a, ſuch vaſt quantities of rich merchandize were brought down near it, as ſoon enlarged the town: it was ſacked by a few Engliſh under Sir Francis Drake, in the year 1588, about 53 years from its foundation: it was ſoon repaired, and like a Phœnix riſing out of the aſhes, became more conſiderable, till a Spaniſh pyrate conducted in five privateers, who ſeized the immenſe treaſures, and burnt the place to aſhes; it recovered this laſt blow: people flocked to it from every quarter: and its riches increaſed ſo much, that in 1697, M. de Ponti found in it a booty of nine millions ſterling. It recovered this blow alſo, and at the time admiral Vernon appeared, it was the principal and beſt fortified city in America, the place where the galleons touch at when outward bound, and the general ſtation of the Spaniſh men of war in thoſe parts: tho'

tho' the walls of the town be waſhed by the ſea, yet it is inacceſſible on that ſide, as the water is ſhoaling near three miles off, and the harbour is bounded by rocks. The only entrance is between two narrow peninſulas, Tierra Bomba, and Barradera. The paſſage of Bocca-chica, or the little Mouth, on Tierra Bomba, was defended by a caſtle called St. Louis, which was a ſquare, whoſe baſtions were ſtrong, well built, and mounted eighty-two guns and three mortars, but neither the Glacis nor Counterſcarp were finiſh'd; to Bocca-chica were added the fort of St. Philip, mounted with ſeven guns, the fort St. Jago mounting fifteen, and the battery de Gamba of four guns, all ſerving as redoubts to Bocca-chica. On the other ſide of the harbour's mouth was a faſcine battery of fifteen guns called Barradera, ſupported by another of four guns; fort St. Joſeph of twenty-one guns ſtood on a flat iſland facing the mouth of the harbour. From this fort to Bocca-chica, a

boom

boom and cables were fixed acroſs, faſtened with three large anchors at each end; and juſt within the boom, four men of war were moored in a line, the Galicia of 80 guns, on board which which was the Spaniſh admiral, the Africa and St. Carlos, each of 66 guns, and the St. Philip of 70. Theſe ſpread ſo far, that there was not room for a ſhip to paſs ahead or aſtern of them: beyond this paſſage lies the great lake or harbour of Carthagena, ſeveral leagues in circumference, and landlocked on all ſides. About midway to the town it grows narrower, and within about a league of the city, two points of land jutting out, form the leſſer harbour; near the northermoſt of thoſe was the ſtrong ſquare fortreſs of Caſtillo Grande, about eight miles up the harbour; the baſtions of this fort were ſtrong and well built, mounted 50 guns, and on the land ſide was defended by a wet ditch and glacis, and one of it faces toward the ſea, had a raveline and double line of guns before

fore it: oppoſite to this caſtle was a horſe-ſhoe battery of 12 guns, called Mancinella. In the middle between theſe two forts, is a ſhoal, with ſcarce three foot water in it, and in each of theſe were ſhips ſunk acroſs; near three miles farther up the harbour, ſtands Carthagena, with Himani, its ſuburbs, on two flat ſandy iſlands; both city and ſuburbs form irregular figures, and are fortified on the land ſide, with ſtrong baſtions, mounting 160 guns, at proper diſtances, with lakes and moraſſes running round them; the city is defended by 160, and the ſuburbs by 140 guns, and the ſhoalneſs of the water is ſuch, that ſhips cannot come ſo near as to do any material execution; about a quarter of a mile ſouth of the city, ſtands an eminence, which is a ſquare whoſe ſide is 50 feet, with three demibaſtions, two guns in each face, one in each flank, and three in each curtain; the place in itſelf is trifling, but its ſituation makes it conſiderable, as it overlooks the city, in the ſame manner as

Madre

Madre de Popa, at four hundred yards diſtance, overlooks it.

To reduce Carthagena, it was neceſſary to begin with the forts; and as no pains were ſpared for ſtrengthening theſe, the admiral begun with a ſtratagem; he ordered the ſmall frigates and fire-ſhips to lie in a line along the ſhore, as if he intended a deſcent to windward of the town, which feint had ſo good an effect, as to draw the force of the enemy to that quarter, and ſet them at work to intrench. In conſequence of a reſolution taken in a council of war, with the four officers of the army, and the ſame number of the navy, Sir Chaloner Ogle having ſhifted his flag on board the Jerſey, and being accompanied with general Wentworth, moved forward with his diviſion for executing the attack againſt the forts and batteries of Tierra-bomba. Admiral Vernon moved after him with his diviſion and all the tranſports, leaving commodore Leſtock with his diviſion at anchor behind; he likewiſe

likewiſe embarked all the grenadiers on ſhore in the fireſhips, as if he propoſed landing there that morning, but ordered them to follow him in time, to be ready for landing that evening to leeward: the ſmall fort of Chambo fired a few guns, but was deſerted as ſoon as the ſhip poſted there could take her ſtation and begin to fire. At noon the Norfolk, Ruſſel, and Shrewſbury being judiciouſly anchored very cloſe under the forts of St. Jago and St. Philip, made ſo warm a fire, that in leſs than an hour they drove every Spaniard out of them. Covered by the fire of theſe ſhips, lieutenant-colonel Cockraine landed with five hundred grenadiers, under the walls of theſe forts, took poſſeſſion of them, without having ſo much as a ſingle ſhot fired at them. General Wentworth, with brigadier Guiſe and colonel Wolf attended the landing of the grenadiers, but the brigade did not come down till next day, being prevented by the ſtrong breezes. This ſucceſs

was

was obtained by the loſs only of ſix men killed and wounded, on board the Ruſſel and Norfolk; the Shrewſbury lying ſouthermoſt, had her cable cut by the Spaniſh ſhot, and falling to leeward, before ſhe could let down another anchor, drove toward the mouth of the harbour, where ſhe lay expoſed to the whole fire of two faſcine batteries on the Barradera ſide; the forts of Bocca-chica, and St. Joſeph fired inceſſantly, as did four men of war of 70 and 60 guns, that were moored athwart the mouth of the harbour; about one hundred and ſixty guns fired at her; captain Townſhend, who commanded her, returned the fire from twenty-ſix guns only, and with an intrepidity and coolneſs ſufficient to ennoble any hero, he maintained a fight for ſeven hours, when night putting a ſtop to the Spaniſh fire, the Shrewſbury had orders to retire; ſhe had twenty men killed and forty wounded, ſixteen ſhot between wind and water, two hundred and fifty ſhot in her hull,

her maſts, yards, and rigging were ſhot to pieces; the ſame evening about nine, the bomb ketches began to play upon Bocca-chica caſtle; the tenth about noon, the regiments of Wentworth and Harriſon, and the ſix regiments of marines landed without oppoſition, while all the boats, with numbers of ſeamen, were conſtantly employed in landing the artillery, ordnance, ſtores, tents and baggage. On the twelfth the Ludlow caſtle got into play on the fort of Bocca-chica, from a mortar ſhe had on board: next day they play'd on the caſtle from a bomb battery on ſhore, erected between St. Philip and St. Jago: on the 15th at noon, all the artillery and ordnance ſtores were landed, as were twelve twenty-four pounders out of the ſhips, at the requeſt of the general.

Hitherto things went well, but after landing, a train of evils crowded upon each other; for the troops, during the three firſt days they were aſhore, remained very inactive in forming their encamp-

ments, ſtanding expoſed to the violent heat of the ſun, on a white burning ſand, and catching cold by the inclemency of the night dews, many of them ſickned. The camp was pitched on a low ſand, which was ſheltered from the Barradera battery by the rock that fort St. Philip ſtood on: but lying on the line of direction of the ſhot fired from thence by the Spaniards at the bomb-battery, it was often galled in flank, and the engineers being both ignorant and dilatory, nothing material was tranſacted: this occaſioned complaints from the admiral, who being intent upon executing his inſtructions, ſent officers to reconnoitre the faſcine battery on the Barradera ſide from whence the camp was annoyed. In conſequence of their report, about one in the morning of the eighteenth, all the boats of the ſquadron were manned and armed, with all the barges and pinnaces of the fleet, to ſurpriſe the Barradera battery. The boats of each diviſion were put under

the command of captain Watſon, with the captains Colby and Norris under him; the ſailors, when landed, were to be directed by captain Boſcawen, having under him captains Laws and Coates, and the ſoldiers were under the direction of captain Waſhington and captain Murray; but the wind beginning to blow hard, and continuing all day, the execution of the deſign was retarded till the nineteenth about midnight, when it was executed with wonderful reſolution and ſucceſs: at their landing, they fortunately pitched aſhore under the muzzle of five guns, which began immediately to fire upon them; the ſailors were at firſt ſurpriſed, but ſoon recovering, they ruſhed in at the embraſures, took poſſeſſion of the battery before the enemy could renew their fire, and ſecured the cannon with very inconſiderable damage to themſelves. This firing alarmed the Spaniards at the larger battery; they turned three pieces of cannon on the platform, fired with grape-ſhot ſo

ſoon as the ſeamen advanced, which flying over their heads, did but little prejudice: the ſailors inſtantly ruſhed on with great boldneſs, and after a ſharp, but ſhort reſiſtance, carried it, ſpiked up all the guns, tore up the platforms, and burnt them, together with the carriages, guard-houſes, and magazines, and returned to their ſhips with ſix wounded priſoners; for this extraordinary ſervice, in which not one was killed, the admiral gave a dollar to every private man.

This ſucceſs gave great relief to the troops, as it freed their camp from the greateſt annoyance, and gave them an opportunity of working quietly on their grand battery, which was conſtructed in a wood, to prevent its being diſcovered by the garriſon: the engineers were aſſiſted by five hundred ſeamen, two hundred and fifty blacks, and as many pioneers as could be ſpared from the army: yet all theſe could not complete the batteries at the time appointed.

On the twentieth, at day-break, the garriſon of Bocca-chica caſtle began to fire warmly at the Bomb-battery, tho' without much ſucceſs; and the Barradera-battery being repaired by the Spaniards, and mounted with two guns, play'd on the Bomb-battery; but was ſoon ſilenced by the Rippon, which anchored near enough to bear upon it.

The openneſs of the road, and the foul ground that was daily cutting the cables of the ſhips, with intelligence by intercepted letters, that admiral de Torres was arrived at the Havannah, where he was to be joined by the French ſquadron commanded by M. de Rochefeiulle, determined the admiral, on the twenty-firſt, to make a general attack upon all the forts and batteries, as ſoon as the wind would permit the ſhips to move to their proper ſtations.

On the twenty-third commodore Leſtock in the Boyne, with the Prince Frederic, Hampton-court, Suffolk and Til-

bury went in to batter Bocca-chica caſtle, and the ſhips poſted there, which were the Galicia, San Carlos, Africa, and St. Philip, all mounting upwards of ſixty guns, and placed in the moſt advantageous ſituation, both for oppoſing any attempt upon the harbour, and for annoying any batteries that might be raiſed on ſhore; on all which they play'd furiouſly, doing much more damage than the caſtle: the Boyne was ſhattered miſerably, and fell to leeward, but the others continued; the Princeſs Amelia of Sir Chaloner Ogle's diviſion, was ſent to ſupport her; which tho' ſhe did not, by falling too far to leeward, yet ſhe did more eſſential ſervice, than at firſt was apprehended, for the ſhot from the facine battery, which play'd upon the caſtle, went over the hill into the camp, now ceaſed, for fear that the fire ſhould fall into the Princeſs Amelia: the whole of the fire was directed againſt the Prince Frederic, then under the brave lord Aubrey Beauclerc, ſon to the duke of St. Alban's,

Alban's, both whoſe legs were ſhot off, as he was giving his commands upon deck; but ſuch was his magnanimity, that he would not ſuffer his wounds to be dreſt, till he had communicated his orders to his firſt lieutenant; which were, "to fight the ſhip to the laſt extremity:" ſoon after he gave ſome directions about his private affairs, and reſigned his ſoul, with the dignity of a hero and a chriſtian.

In the mean time, the Suffolk and Tilbury, happening to anchor well to the northward, lay ſucceſsfully battering againſt the breach till evening, when every thing appearing fit for an aſſault, they were ordered to draw off. At this inſtant the army began to look upon the breach as acceſſible, but the general complaining they were galled by the Barradera battery, where the Spaniards had again mounted ſix guns, the admiral directed the Princeſs Amelia, Litchfield and Shoreham, to go in and anchor as nigh it as poſſible; and about noon, ſent

the boats of the fleet again, manned and armed to demoliſh the faſcine battery. Captain Watſon was to command the men when put on ſhore, and captains Broderick and Cleland, thoſe who remained in the boats: the buſineſs was effected; for ſo ſoon as the Spaniards ſaw the boats coming to land, and the ſhips anchoring cloſe to the battery, they deſerted it; while the captains Watſon and Cotes marched in, ſpiked the guns, and intirely deſtroyed it: the ſeamen afterward drew ſome of their boats over a neck of land, boarded and burnt a ſloop that lay there to ſupply the battery with ammunition.

The greateſt part of the guns in Boccachica caſtle being diſmounted, general Wentworth went in the night of the twenty-fifth, to reconnoitre the breach, and judging it ſurmountable, he reſolved to ſtorm it next evening, an hour before ſun-ſet. He came off in the morning, and intimated his deſign to Mr. Vernon, who immediately ſent in his boats again,

to

to make a favourable diverſion under the command of captain Knowles, who landing at the facine battery, drew up his men before the forces could march up to attack the caſtle. This ſtep intimidated the enemy; about half an hour after five, general Wentworth moved forward to aſſault the breach with the troops; the forlorn hope conſiſted of a ſerjeant and twelve grenadiers, who were followed by thirty volunteers: next marched two hundred and ſixty grenadiers, the whole then remaining under lieutenant-colonel M'Lead, after this, colonel Daniel marched at the head of a detachment of five hundred men, having under his direction ſome ſmall parties carrying ſcaling ladders, pick-axes and ſpades to be in readineſs in caſe of neceſſity: the whole was ſuſtained by five hundred men, under the command of lieutenant-colonel Cockrane; and brigadier (now lord) Blakeney, had the direction of the artillery; upon a ſignal, which was the firing three bombs from the

mortar battery, the great gun battery poured a volley into the breach, a ſecond of grape-ſhot followed, which obliging the centinels upon the walls to put themſelves under cover, probably occaſioned their not having perceived the troops, when they firſt began to move forward; but before they reached the foot of the walls, the drums in the fort beat to arms, the top of the breach was manned by the Spaniards; their ſhips, and fort St. Joſeph began to fire upon the aſſailants, tho' with no other effect, but killing one man: Don Blas being on board the Galicia, the garriſon fell into confuſion, and fled precipitately out of the gates; as ſoon as the grenadiers began to mount the breach, the conſternation among the ſhips and forts was great, the Africa and St. Carlos were ſunk, the St. Philip was ſet on fire, and continued burning ſome hours, till it burſt by a violent exploſion, the Gallicia was abandon'd by her crew, who left the captain, a captain of marines,

and

and ſixty men aboard, who all fell into the hands of the Engliſh, under the command of captains Knowles and Watſon. The Spaniſh admiral's flag and colours were ſecured, the boats ſtormed St. Joſeph's fort, and took it with but little reſiſtance, finding none upon entering it, except one man in liquor, who was to have blown it up.* After leaving ſome officers and men on board the Gallicia, the boats went to work on cutting the boom, and moving the Gallicia out of the channel.

Next day, after taking the caſtle, the admiral haſtened into the harbour, and in three hours warped through between the ſunk ſhips: that night he advanced two leagues up the harbour, as did the Burford and Orford, who were next day poſt-

* The Britiſh troops from the time of their encampment, to the taking of Bocca-chica caſtle, loſt about four hundred men by ſickneſs, and the fire of the enemy; among thoſe killed in the camp, was colonel Douglaſs, colonel Watſon of the train, lieutenant-colonel Sandford, and captain Moor, the chief engineer.

ed acroſs it, for cutting off the Spaniards from all communication by water. That afternoon the Worceſter, by getting in cloſe to a wharf, ſecured a ſpring of freſh water, which was of ſignal ſervice to the troops, and the Weymouth and Cruizer ſloop deſtroyed two ſmall batteries; which done, the Cruizer went up the creek of Paſſo Cavallo, and brought away four large Sina hulks, being veſſels dug out of a hollow tree, big enough to carry twenty tons, which were very ſerviceable in watering the fleet. In the mean time the tranſports were warping in, but were greatly retarded by blowing weather, ſo that choaking up the mouth of the harbour, the men of war were prevented from making the deſired diſpatch: however, they all got in on the thirtieth, when the fireſhips and frigates were ſo diſpoſed round the harbour, as to guard every paſs and creek, and to cut off all ſupplies from the town.

Don

Don Blas, in the mean time, was not idle on his part; he ordered Mancinilla fort to be deſtroyed, the large channel that lies between it and Caſtillo grande to be choaked up, by ſeven galleons, and other ſhips, and by the Conqueſtador and Dragon men of war; all of which were ſunk on each ſide a ſhoal that lay in the midſt of it; and the better to defend the city, the houſes were untiled.

On the thirtieth Sir Chaloner Ogle's diviſion turned up the harbour, and anchored near Caſtillo grande, where one part of the Spaniards made a ſhew to receive them, while another was removing the effects from Caſtillo grande.

On the morning of the firſt of April, admiral Vernon got to an anchor cloſe to Caſtillo grande, ſet ſome of his ſhips at work to heave the maſts out of the Spaniſh ſhips, to make a channel over thoſe ſunk in the deepeſt water, that the bomb ketches might run in, batter the town, and ſecure a ſafe deſcent for the land

land forces: toward evening the whole was effected, two bomb ketches and two frigates got in, and commodore Leſtock, with the land forces he had re-embarked, after deſtroying the out-works, followed; by ten the next morning the bomb ketches began to play upon the town, and in the evening, another channel having been made through the wrecks to the eaſtward of the ſhoal, three fireſhips got through it, and being poſted to cover the deſcent of the land forces at Texar de Gracias, they kept a continual fire upon the enemy, and prevented their caſting up intrenchments. Things ſucceeded ſo well, that about one hundred Spaniards were driven from a breaſt-work at the upper end of the harbour, and the country between that and St. Lazar was ſcoured, by an inceſſant fire, which continued all night: by theſe means a ſafe deſcent was ſecured for the army, whoſe officers had reſolved in a council of war, "to land the troops next "morning at break of day, and to poſſeſs "the

" the port of la Quinta, for cutting off " the communication of the city with the " country, for covering the landing of " the artillery, and to clear ground for " the encampment."

About two in the morning of the fifth, the firſt diviſion of fourteen hundred men under brigadier Blakeney, were received by the boats of the fleet, from on board the tranſports, and from thence went and rendezvouſed along-ſide the Weymouth: at five colonel Grant moved toward the ſhore, with the grenadiers, landed without oppoſition, at a place about two miles from Lazar, and being ſoon followed by the reſt of the troops, the whole was formed in order of battle for marching againſt the enemy, who were now in the wildeſt confuſion, and were flying on every quarter from the fire of the ſhips, which ſwept them off in lanes.

General Wentworth advanced at the head of the forces through a long narrow defile, where ſome few of his men were hurt

hurt by ſingle ſhot from the paths and opening into the wood, where the enemy had made a lodgment, but were ſoon put to flight: about a mile further, in coming out of the defile, near ſix hundred Spaniards were perceived to be advantageouſly poſted, and ſeemed reſolute to diſpute the paſſage: the ground over which the troops were to march did not admit of much more than one large platoon in front, the Lagoon lying upon their left, and a thick copſe on their right, into which the general ordered a party of American ſoldiers to fall upon the rear of ſuch of the enemy as might be lodged there, to flank them in their march: the grenadiers advanced with but little loſs, though they received two fires from the enemy: the front platoon fired at the diſtance of half muſket ſhot, and immediately wheeled to make room for the reſt: at this the Spaniards raiſed a loud huzza, judging that the whole body had given way, but finding their miſtake, by the fire of the platoons, they

they fled in diſorder toward the city; on which a convenient place for encamping was marked out a mile ſhort of Lazar; and in the evening a party poſſeſſed themſelves of La Popa, whence the generals reconnoitred the town, which, now was the time to have ſtormed; for the Spaniards had not finiſhed the works they were carrying on from the hill, neither had they finiſhed their entrenchment, a general pannick having poſſeſſed them; but the golden opportunity was loſt, as no ſtores were laned from the ordnance ſhips; however, next morning, theſe were carried on ſhore, and the remainder of the eight regiments were landed, but the troops were obliged to lie three nights upon their arms for want of tents, having no proper tools to build any, they were expoſed to the ſcorching fervours of a burning ſun in the day time, and to the chilling dews in the night.

During theſe three days the Spaniards completed a four gun battery, and intrenchments

trenchments round the foot of fort San Lazar, which became ſtronger than the caſtle of itſelf: they alſo drew the guns of the faſcine battery on the north point, and mounting them on this new battery, frequently fired from them into the camp, where ſickneſs increaſed, and where the rainy ſeaſons now began to make havock.

The operations of the army being ſlow, and the buſineſs urgent, the admiral ſent a detachment from lord James Cavendiſh and colonel Bland's regiments, to reinforce them with ſuch Americans as were fit for ſervice, which, together with the Negroes, augmented the army to five thouſand men. The fleet, by their fire, deprived the Spaniards of all communication by ſea, and the Weymouth continuing poſted within piſtol-ſhot of the ſhore, kept ſcouring the country, while the mortars from the ketches play'd both on the fort and the town: however, the communication between the town and country was open, whole herds

of

of cattle were brought in, and the garriſon of San Lazar was reinforced, and ſupplied; about two in the morning of the eighth, twelve hundred men, commanded by brigadier Guiſe, advanced toward the fort, being conducted by three deſerters, and a little before day began to mount the hill; they intended an attack upon two places at once; but the diviſion which was to have gone up an open acceſſible road, that lay upon the right of the fort, was miſled toward the center, where the aſcent was very ſteep and the ground broken; ſome of the moſt forward gained the top, and puſhed on to the entrenchments, but not being immediately ſuſtained, by reaſon of the great difficulty in mounting the hill, they were moſt of them killed or wounded: colonel Grant aſcended the hill on the left, but having received a mortal wound, and the guide with ſeveral others being killed, lieutenant-colonel Hammond, the next in command, continued on the ſide of the hill, till ordered

to

to retire: the other troops ſeeing the fate of the grenadiers, halted at the foot of the hill, where they continued in great diſorder; inſtead of ruſhing upon the Spaniards ſword in hand, a full ſtop was made, and the men were left expoſed to the cannon, and the muſketry of the enemy, which made a dreadful havock among them: between ſix and ſeven they were ordered to retreat, and to cover them, a reſerve of five hundred men was directed to advance, by which means they retired unmoleſted, with the loſs of ſix hundred men; among whom colonel Grant, lieutenant-colonel Thomſon, three captains and four lieutenants.

The miſcarriage of this attack determined the admiral to ſet ſail on the ſixth of May, for Jamaica, carrying only a ſhattered reſerve of three thouſand two hundred men, twelve hundred of whom were Americans, and unfit for ſervice. However, before ſetting out, the defences of the harbour were intirely deſtroyed, the

cannon

cannon and mortars were ſpiked up, the lime-kilns were ruined, and their lime-ſtore was ſhipped off for building an hoſpital at Port-Royal.

The town of Carthagena, though the object of the expedition, ſuffered but little from the moſt ſtrenuous efforts: the Gallicia, which the admiral ordered to be made into a floating battery, was indeed, by help of a ſtrong ſea breeze, driven ſo near as to ſhatter ſome of the houſes, the ſhells from the bomb ketches damaged ſome churches and houſes, particularly on the thirteenth, one of the carcaſes falling into the great church, where was the principal magazine of powder, ſet fire to the timber and plank that covered it, which cauſed a general conſternation, the alarm bell was rung, the people flocked from every quarter, and by throwing ſand ſoon extinguiſhed the flames.

From the time of the fleet's arrival at Jamaica, the admiral was buſy in concerting meaſures for ſtriking ſome important blow

blow that might compenſate the former diſappointment: no leſs than the conqueſt of the iſland Cuba, by far the moſt extenſive and moſt important in the Weſt-Indies, was attempted, and perhaps the ſcheme had ſucceeded, had not a diviſion of counſels always prevented the execucution of them.

The admiral now weary with ſailing backward and forward to Jamaica, without affecting the enemy, or being affected by them, notwithſtanding his force was ſoon nearly equal to what it was when firſt he ſet ſail for Carthagena; the convoy with the victuallers and ſtoreſhips, which arrived from England, on the nineteenth, having ſupplied the place of the ſeven eighty gun ſhips, as alſo of the Hampton-court, Burford, Worceſter, Falmouth, and five frigates, which were ſent home under the care of commodore Leſtock.

Poſterity will ſcarcely believe, that an expedition, which met with no interruption, ſhould be abandoned, when almoſt

finiſhed, and which was ſupported by a fleet of nine men of war, two of whom of eighty guns, two of ſeventy, three of ſixty, and three of fifty, with forty-one ſail of tranſports and fireſhips, having on board four thouſand men.

The troops were landed on the twenty-firſt of July, near St. Jago, the largeſt town on the eaſtern ſide of the pleaſant healthy iſland of Cuba, which is two hundred and thirty leagues long, and forty broad, and which abounds not only with the neceſſaries of life, but with the more delicate bleſſings of nature; the open meadows ſwarming with cattle, and the woods with hogs both tame and wild; the land produces ſugar-canes, and the beſt of tobacco in plenty; wheat, rice, all kind of ſalleting, and pulſe flouriſh very plentifully, with all kind of Indian fruit; the woods are full of mahogony, fuſtre, Spaniſh elm, cedar, and ſeveral other kinds of timber; alſo cotton grows wild, beſides what is planted: the iſland is full of fine rivers

and

and harbours fit for tranſportation; and the town of Covery, within three leagues of St. Jago, has in it one of the richeſt copper mines, on which the Spaniards work inceſſantly.

The troops found no mortal to oppoſe them; the country was intirely deſerted, only a ſmall number of Spaniards ſkulked up and down without either power or inclination to fight, and the flight of the women and children to St. Jago, increaſed the ſcarcity of proviſions, and added to the confuſion which was already ſo great, that the governor and grandees, from an apprehenſion of an attack over land, repaired every night into the woods for ſecurity; ſo that had the conſternation been improved, a detachment of one thouſand men, with as many Negroes, might, by carrying a week's proviſions, have carried the upper batteries of Eſtrella and Santa Catarina, the former of which was on the town-ſide, mounted eighteen guns, the other a little northward, and mounted twelve;

twelve; both of which might have been ſurpriſed by forty men. What fatality poſſeſſed thoſe concerned, cannot well be determined; the land and ſea officers blamed each other; the troops were re-imbarked on the twentieth of November, without having a ſingle ſhot fired at either the army or tranſports. The general and admiral ſeparated on the twentieth of December, after a connection too long for themſelves, and too fatal to the nation, who expended upon theſe expeditions three millions ſterling, loſt a number of lives, and what was more, loſt the character of irreſiſtible by ſea. Only one Spaniſh man of war of twenty-four guns, and two hundred and twenty men, was taken by the Worceſter; a regiſter ſhip of three hundred and fifty tons, and fifty men, laden with proviſions for Carthagena, by the Defiance; and a regiſter ſhip, with ſeventy-four thouſand pieces of eight, by the Shoreham man of war.

General Wentworth returned to Portſmouth, and the admiral proceeded to cruize

off Hiſpaniola, in expectation of meeting a conſiderable reinforcement, while the Spaniards exulted in their own deliverance, and made rejoicings in their vaſt dominions, little ſhort of thoſe practiſed in the Roman triumphs; there were rejoicings for three days and three nights ſucceſſively at Madrid.

From this time the admiral preſſed for leave to return home, in order to be free from any future diſcouragements, and to have his conduct inquired into: his requeſt was complied with, and on the twenty-third of September, 1742, he received letters of revocation, on which he ſet ſail for England, arrived at Briſtol on the ſixth of January, 1743, amidſt the loudeſt acclamations; on the thirteenth he waited on his majeſty at St. James's, from whom he met with a very gracious reception, on the nineteenth he himſelf was waited on by ſeveral aldermen of the city of London, and on the twenty-fourth took up his freedom at Guildhall, when he left one hundred guineas for the poor.

From this time he was conſulted almoſt in every thing, and his advice was the more neceſſary, as the French had declared war in March, 1744.

The Britiſh nation would have been capable of dealing with the united naval force of the houſe of Bourbon, had not the latter, by marching forces into Germany, under pretence of being guarantee of the treaty of Weſtphalia, involved the people of England in a war upon the continent; where a ſingle troop of horſe, upon the Britiſh eſtabliſhment, is more chargeable than a whole regiment of dragoons in the pay of France, whoſe armies traverſed the empire, while a ſecret expedition, in favour of p— Edward, ſon of the pretender, flattered the court of Verſailles with the proſpect of changing the face of affairs throughout Europe.

Sir John Norris being in the Downs with a formidable ſquadron, in the ſummer, 1744, hovered upon the coaſt of Kent, the Engliſh militia were armed,

and ſo the ſcheme of the young P—r came to nothing for that year. However, he himſelf tried his own fortune the next; for landing in Scotland upon the twenty-fourth of July, 1745, he was ſoon joined by a number of Highlanders, ſufficient to defeat the few regular forces then in the kingdom; Cope was routed at Preſton-pans on the twenty-firſt of September, and numbers reſorted to the ſtandard of the conqueror, who, on the eighth of November, with eight thouſand men, entered England, where every thing was in confuſion, and where the people, upon the coaſts of Kent and Suſſex were under perpetual alarms from the vaſt preparations at Dunkirk, Boulogne, and other Ports of France.

To watch the motions of the enemy's fleet, admiral Vernon was ſent out with a large ſquadron of men of war; which he diſpoſed ſo well, as effectually to block up the French harbours; by a ſeaſonable correſpondence, he greatly animated

mated the country people, who were, by their confidence in his abilities, rid of the gloomy apprehenſions of an invaſion with which they had hitherto been ſeized; in this ſervice he was taken up till the Rebellion had breathed its laſt, by the total defeat of the chevalier's army, on the ſixteenth of April, 1746. But not long after his return, complaints were made of him to the lords of the admiralty, that he had ſuperſeded their orders, by appointing a gunner in oppoſition to one recommended by themſelves, and for exacting too ſevere duty from the hands of the private men; the complaints were laid before the king, and Mr. Vernon was ſtruck off the liſt of admirals, an event which he bore with great reſignation.

From this time he lived wholly retired, no way concerned in any publick buſineſs, further than by having a ſeat in the houſe of commons, as member for Ipſwich in Suffolk, which he ſtill had the intereſt to retain. In every debate relative to the

ſea-ſervice, he ſpoke his mind with a freedom of ſpeech, which though it diſcovered the candour and integrity of the man, yet it procured him the enmity of the miniſtry, and hindered his being employed: but toward the latter end of his days, things began to wear a new face in England, and the ſtate to be governed by other maxims than hitherto it had been.

The houſe of commons, after the death of Mr. Pelham, was divided into two parties, that of Mr. F—, and Mr. P—, both men of ability and temper, but of oppoſite principles and oppoſite ſides of the queſtion; the former, was for retaining the ancient ſyſtem of having connection with the powers upon the Continent, the latter utterly againſt it, as detrimental to the intereſt of the Britiſh nation. The memorable winter of 1754 will never be forgotten, when Mr. P—, by the ſuperior force of his arguments expreſſed in the moſt free and elegant terms, levelled all the fences of corruption, and convinced the moſt obſtinate of the folly of

taking

taking foreigners into pay, and maintaining a land war.

The efforts of Mr. P—, for changing the ſyſtem in England were forwarded by our loſſes in America, and an expedition into the Mediterranean, with ten ſhips only for relieving Minorca, then beſieged by marſhal Richlieu, and an army of twenty thouſand men! that ſparkling gem of the Britiſh crown fell into the hands of the enemy before any breach was made either in the counterſcarp or body of the place, nay before the covered way itſelf was aſſaulted! Towards the latter end of the year 1756, a revolution happened in the Britiſh miniſtry; the lord chancellor Y——, now earl of H———, reſigned his employments, in order to reap the quiet poſſeſſion of an immenſity of riches, which by his abilities he had accumulated, and by which he ſettled his family in ſuch a manner, that their income was equal to that of ſome crowned heads; lord A——, and the other commiſſioners of the admiralty

admiralty were removed; Mr. F— reſigned his places, and the old duke of N——, who had generouſly expended a paternal eſtate among mobs in his younger years, was removed from his employments. Short-lived however, was Mr. P—'s adminiſtration, for in four months he reſigned, by his majeſty's command; and it is doubtful whether he would have been received into favour, had not the city of London teſtified her approbation of his conduct, by preſenting him with the freedom of the city in a gold box; the other cities followed the example of the metropolis, and Mr. P— and his party came in; as Mr. Vernon perhaps would have done, if death had not prevented.

He enjoyed a very good ſtate of health both in London, and at his country ſeat of Nacton; he was indeed very lame, and drooping, but his conſtitution otherways was but little impaired; the ſickneſs which carried him off, was ſudden and unexpected; he was perfectly well

on

on friday the twenty-eighth of October, 1757; and wrote a familiar letter to a friend in the Broad-way, Weſtminſter, on the twenty-ninth; about two in the morning of the thirtieth, he awaked out of his firſt ſleep, and complained of an heavineſs at heart; a phyſician was ſent for, but his pain increaſed ſo violently, that he expired in the arms of a ſervant, about three minutes before any aſſiſtance could be brought him.

Mr. Vernon was of a ſtature below a medium, of a brown complection, had a piercing eye, a ſearching look, and ſomething awful in his geſture; he inſiſted upon the officers doing their duty, with a preciſeneſs that raiſed differences between them and the private men; he was aſſiduous in viſiting the hoſpitals, inſpecting into the proviſions and cloaths; and never was known to tarry all night aſhore, while in a harbour.

This conduct was the cauſe of his diſappointments, and at laſt removed him from

from his place: his temper was abundantly cool; tho' a warm anxiety raiſed in his breaſt a jealouſy of thoſe who were joined with him in command; he had the beſt opportunities to learn the buſineſs of a ſeaman, the ſeveral parts of which he underſtood perfectly well; and thro' the whole of his life, he acted very liberally toward the poor; ſo that his death was much lamented in the place where he lived, and a real loſs to the nation, when engaged in a war with France, for by peruſing the hiſtories of times paſt, and a a ſtrict review of his own, he ſaw thoroughly into the cauſe of his diſappointments, and became one of the moſt accompliſhed ſea-officers that ever bore command.

FINIS.